

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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BEFORE A PHYSICIAN CAN PRESCRIBE AN OPIOID ANALGESIC (CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE), THE PHYSICIAN MUST DO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) Obtain a History of Present Illness and a Physical Exam.
- 2) Obtain objective evidence documenting the existence of disease.
- 3) Determine the Type of Disease Mechanism (Neuropathic, Somatic, Visceral, etc.)
- 4) Evaluate the case for "Absolute" and "Relative Contraindications" to the use of these medications.
- 5) Evaluate for deceitfulness, deceptiveness, or inconsistencies in information provided.
- 6) Evaluate for patterns of irresponsible behavior.
- 7) Provide a Risk Assessment of all Concerns associated with the case.
 - a) Criminal Background.
 - b) Social Background, including risks.
 - c) Family and/or social support.
 - d) Cognitive and/or memory impairments.
- 8) Evaluate for Special Circumstances.
 - a) Metabolic enzyme variants
 - b) Liver & kidney disease
 - c) Drug to drug interactions
- 9) Determine the appropriateness of the therapy.
- 10) Educate the patient and the family.
 - a) About Risks, Side-effects, and possible complications.
 - b) About opioid safety.

IN SUMMARY:

- 1) There has to be a valid reason for prescribing the medication.
- 2) There has to be a genuine trusting patient-physician relationship.
- 3) The patient and family must be capable of understanding the risks, dangers, and seriousness of the therapy.
- 4) The patient and the family must be capable of handling the responsibility.
- 5) The family must be in agreement with the therapy.
- 6) The family must share the responsibility of the patient's care.

POSSIBLE REASONS FOR NOT PRESCRIBING:

- 1) No objective evidence of disease.
- 2) Untrustworthy patient.
 - a) Patient has lied during evaluation(s), including not providing requested information (i.e., criminal background information or not indicating that they take illegal drugs which are later found on urine drug testing). If this was done for the purpose of obtaining controlled substances, then it is considered a crime (see below under criminal behavior).
 - i) This includes omitting information being asked, or avoiding being completely truthful.
 - ii) Telling half-truths, or partial truths.
 - b) Patient does not follow instructions on how to take medications.
 - i) Increases doses without permission (Drug Misuse)
 - ii) Takes the medication more frequently than allowed (Drug Misuse)
- 3) Irresponsible patient.
 - a) Takes alcohol while taking opioid pain medications.
 - b) Unwillingness to comply with monitoring of medication use.
 - i) Patient does not keep medical appointments.
 - c) Patient continues to engage in unhealthy behavior:
 - i) Smoking
 - ii) Participating in high-risk activities
- 4) Patient engages in criminal behavior.
 - a) Obtains medications from multiple physicians ("Doctor Shopping")
 - b) Uses illegal drugs (Drug Abuse)
 - c) Sells or shares his medications with others (Opioid Diversion)
 - d) Drives while taking medications (DWI)
 - e) Obtaining controlled substances under false pretenses (Fraud)
- 5) Incapable patient.
 - a) Patient has cognitive or memory impairment that is not conducive towards the safe use of these medications.
- 6) Drug Addiction.