

SAFE PAIN MEDICINE PRESCRIBING IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS



- We care about you. We are committed to treating you safely.
- Pain relief treatment can be complicated. Mistakes or abuse of pain medicine can cause serious health problems and even death.
- Our emergency department is committed to providing safe pain relief options. Many types of pain can be safely and effectively managed *without* prescription opioid medications.

For your SAFETY, we follow these guidelines when treating your pain:

1. We look for and treat emergencies. We use our best judgment when treating pain. These recommendations follow legal advice.
2. You should have only one provider and one pharmacy helping you with chronic pain. We do not usually prescribe pain medication if you already receive pain medicine from another health care provider.
3. If prescription pain medication is needed, we generally only give you a small amount.
4. We do not refill lost or stolen prescriptions. If your prescription is stolen, please contact the police.
5. We do not prescribe long-acting pain medicines such as OxyContin, MSContin, Fentanyl (Duragesic), Methadone, Opana ER, Exalgo and others.
6. We do not provide missing doses of Methadone or similar medications such as Subutex, Suboxone, or Buprenorphine.
7. We do not usually give opioid shots for flare-ups of chronic pain. Medicines taken by mouth may be offered instead.
8. Health care laws, including HIPAA, allow us to ask for your medical records. These laws allow us to share information with other health care providers who are treating you.
9. We may ask you to show a photo ID when you receive a prescription for pain medicines or other controlled substances.
10. We use the California Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, called CURES. This statewide computer system tracks opioid and other controlled substance prescriptions.

If you need help with substance abuse or addiction, call
707-565-7450
for confidential referral and treatment.

These standards were developed by the Committee for Healthcare Improvement in collaboration with the Sonoma County Department of Health Services and all Sonoma County Emergency Departments.

