



Accurate Clinic

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Assessment Visit – What is it?

Because the decision to prescribe opiate pain medications for chronic pain is complex, the policy of this clinic is to perform an assessment on all patients prior to accepting a patient into the chronic opiod pain management program. The purpose of the assessment visit is to confirm the presence of a chronic pain condition, determine it's likely cause if possible and review the types of treatment previously engaged to manage the pain.

Due to the potential concerns associated with managing chronic pain with opiate medications, a safety assessment is also performed including the evaluation of medical conditions that might complicate the use of opiates. Due to the potential for substance abuse related to the use of opiates, a urine drug screen is obtained which is sent to an outside lab for confirmation testing which takes up to 5 business days to confirm point-of-care results.

As part of the initial assessment, consent forms must be signed allowing us to obtain copies of medical records from previous prescribing physicians. Based on the time required to receive confirmation results on the urine drug screen and obtain and review these medical records, it usually requires a week or more to confirm final acceptance into the opiate management program for chronic pain. ***To speed this process up***, medical records release forms can be downloaded from our web site, signed by you, and faxed to our clinic prior to your appointment. This will give us time to obtain and review records so that we can be prepared to finalize your assessment sooner.

For the reasons described above, prescriptions for a full month's supply of opiates are generally ***NOT*** provided on the initial assessment visit, although exceptions can sometimes be made under specific circumstances including obtaining and reviewing previous medical records.

If you are out, or about to run out, of your usual opiate medications, please notify staff ***prior*** to your appointment, or at the start of the clinic visit, and every effort will be made to gather the information necessary to appropriately prescribe you enough medications to carry you through to your follow-up appointment. We recognize the strain involved with running out of pain medications and we will do what we can to assure your pain is treated appropriately and timely.

If you have any concerns regarding this policy, please notify staff ***before*** beginning the assessment. There will be no refunds provided once the assessment triage process has started.

Thank you for your understanding. We believe our assessment process assures the best safety for our patients in the management of their chronic pain.

Patient'ss Signature

Date: _____