

BWH FOOT AND ANKLE CENTER - NARCOTIC MEDICATIONS POLICY

Narcotics are pain medications that have side effects including, but not limited to drowsiness, tolerance, and addiction. In addition, many narcotic pain medicines, such as Percocet and Vicodin, contain acetaminophen (Tylenol™), which if taken in large doses can cause liver failure and even death.

For these reasons, your orthopedic surgeon/P.A. prescribes narcotic pain medications with caution in appropriate situations. Patients whose conditions do not require surgical intervention or who have chronic pain may be referred to their Primary Care Physician or the Pain Management Service for pain management.

This policy has been adopted by the BWH Foot and Ankle Center for your safety. Patients will be prescribed controlled substances while under our care only if they adhere to the following conditions. If a patient violates any of the following, his/her prescriptions and/or treatment by our practice may be terminated.

~ Medications must only be used as prescribed.

~ Any altering of a prescription for medication will be reported to all physicians caring for the patient, local medical facilities, pharmacies and other authorities such as the local police department, Drug Enforcement Agency, etc. as deemed appropriate for the situation.

~ Patients should safeguard their prescriptions/pain medications from being lost or stolen. **We do not replace prescriptions that are misplaced, stolen or destroyed.**

~ Each patient will be prescribed narcotics by one practice only (e.g. orthopaedics, primary care, emergency dept. or pain management, not more than one of these). If other providers issue pain medication prescriptions, we need to know for your safety.

~ Patients who have pain that is out of proportion or lasts longer than what is usual and customary will require a follow-up appointment for reassessment of their condition and the need for pain medication. This is for your safety.

Prescription requests should be called in to 617-983-7202 by noon Monday through Friday. Refill requests that are called in Friday after 12 noon will not be phoned in/mailed until the following Monday. Therefore, you must call before noon on Friday if you will need medication over the weekend.

For prescriptions to be phoned in to a pharmacy, our office must have 24 hours to process the request. **Please supply the pharmacy phone number, pharmacy address, patient birth date and patient medical record number.** Certain prescriptions for pain medication can be called into the pharmacy while others must be picked up at the clinic during office hours or must be mailed to the patient. Please allow several days for the prescription for the medication to be received in the mail.

Also note that it is the strict policy of this office that narcotics and other pain medications will NOT be refilled on weekends, holidays or after regular office hours.

Sincerely,

Eric Bluman, M.D.
Christopher P. Chiodo, M.D.
Jeremy Smith, M.D.
Shari Vigneau, PA-C
Samantha Noonan, PA-C
Adrienne Bonvini, PA-C

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