



Prescription Narcotic Use Policy

It is the goal of East Cascade Women's Group to provide the best care possible for our patients. In order to reach this goal, it is necessary to provide information to keep our patients informed. Although this letter probably addresses only a few of those who read it, we feel it is important to have the policy available to you. Opiate medication abuse has been declared a public health crisis, and we feel that we have the responsibility to carefully monitor our prescribing practices. Most of the opiate or narcotic prescriptions we write are for post-operative pain. When you leave the hospital, we prescribe the amount of medication that we think is necessary. There is, of course, the occasional exception to that rule.

Our office policy on the use of prescription narcotics is as follows:

- 1) The patient will take the medication only as prescribed. Patients who take more than the prescription indicated will not be prescribed additional refills.
- 2) Only patients for whom the prescription is written are allowed to use the medications. There will be **no refills** for lost, stolen, or misplaced narcotic prescriptions.
- 3) Any attempt to obtain additional medications from another physician/provider may be considered attempting to abuse narcotic prescriptions and could jeopardize the patient-provider agreement.
- 4) If you are under the supervision of a pain management physician, we expect you to disclose this information to us on your first visit. Failure to do so would violate your contract with your pain management physician.
- 5) No new or refill narcotic prescriptions will be given after 4 pm on weekdays or during the weekend. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
- 6) Patients will give a minimum or **24 hours notice** when requesting prescription refills.
- 7) If you feel that you require additional pain medication for post-operative pain, please understand that your provider may require you to come in for an appointment for evaluation.