PAIN MEDICATION POLICY

The providers at River Valley Orthopedics understand that many orthopedic conditions can cause pain. We also understand that many of the surgeries we do that result in getting rid of pain over the long term can cause more pain in the short term. We use every tool at our disposal to safely and responsibly decrease this pain. We will often suggest a multimodal approach and recommend a combination of pain relieving agents such as ice, heat, rest, elevation, anti-inflammatory medications and in some cases narcotic or opioid medications.

Narcotic/Opioid medications CANNOT be prescribed for the following conditions:

- Back Pain
- Arthritis
- Sciatica
- Neck Pain
- Chronic Pain
- Strains / Sprains
- Pain after surgery performed by another surgeon

The goal of RVO providers is to have their patients off narcotic/opioid medication by six weeks from the date of surgery. If you elect to undergo surgical treatment for an orthopedic condition, it must be with the understanding that you may be asked to tolerate some pain when we stop or decrease the use of pain medications.

MEDICATION REFILLS:

- Refills will not be filled earlier than three days before your prescription runs out.
- We will not be responsible for replacing lost or stolen medications.
- Refill requests must be made during normal business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm.
- We do not provide same day service for narcotic/opioid refills, requests may take up to three days.
- On-call physicians are unable to start or refill any prescription pain medications.
- Narcotic/Opioid medications will not be prescribed after business hours, on weekends or during holidays.

Because of the known risks of narcotic medication use, we try our utmost to provide this medication responsibly. These types of medications have many side effects including physical dependence. A person can develop a tolerance and start to develop dependence issues to narcotic/opioid medications in as little as two weeks. Because of this tolerance we avoid prescribing narcotic/opioid medications before surgery and minimize the time patients take these types of medications so that the medicine works best for the patient when they need it after surgery.

The goal of narcotic/opioid medicine use is NOT to eliminate pain. The goal is to help make pain more tolerable, until the risks of continued use outweigh the potential benefit of pain reduction.

By signing, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Pain Medication Policy of River Valley Orthopedics and agree to abide by the policy guidelines as a condition of my patient relationship with River Valley Orthopedics.

______________________________
Patient Name

______________________________
Patient Signature

______________________________
Date

RVO PROVIDERS

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