

May 29, 2018

To our patients:

Working with our patients to ease their pain and promote quality of life is one of our primary goals.

We are certain that you too are aware of the media coverage regarding deaths from the misuse of prescription narcotic pain medications. In many parts of our country, it is more common than deaths from illegal drug use. Doctors are under pressure to do everything possible to help reverse this trend. We don't feel that banning the use of narcotic/opioid medications to treat chronic pain is the answer. Contrary to what a growing number of physicians outside of pain management say, long term use of prescription pain killers can indeed make life better for patients. Those of us who treat chronic pain know this. But, we don't make the laws.

Michigan Pain Consultants is the largest pain specialty practice in the state. We have one of North America's largest data bases on how patients with chronic pain do with various treatments. We have a great opportunity to present facts, and not myths and opinions, to law makers and insurance companies. We are actively engaged in doing so, and advocating for you. In 2017, the Michigan legislature passed new laws that were written with the best intentions in mind. However, they were not written with the chronic pain patient, in mind. We encourage you to reach out to your legislators and insurance companies, and voice any concerns that you may have related to your treatment for chronic pain. For your convenience, we have provided a link that will allow you to "Find your Senator" by Address or Zip Code:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/fysbyaddress.html>. You can find your House Representative here: <http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/firmFindaRep.aspx>

We need your help to demonstrate that the narcotic/opioid agreement that you sign is, by itself, adequate and effective. As a patient/physician team, we need to prove that pain medications are used safely, and that they help much more than they harm.

We can only do this if we all agree to absolutely and precisely follow the opioid/narcotic agreement, word for word. With this in mind, we've asked our staff to absolutely and precisely follow it too, word for word. What the opioid agreement says we will do is what we must do, without exception. Pain specialists who do otherwise risk losing their practices, their licensures, and their insurance. In other words, they lose the ability to treat their patients.

Please keep all of this in mind when you interact with our staff. This is not something they can control. They have your best long-term interest at heart, as do we.

Additionally, in the spirit of doing our part to educate our patients about these laws, as well as the risks associated with opioid use, we have included the following materials in this packet:

- Brief description of relevant new laws and how our patients may be impacted.
- List of Common Controlled Substances – Please review this when completing your new patient forms.

We appreciate the trust that you have placed in us, and take that trust very seriously.

Sincerely,

The Physicians of Michigan Pain Consultants, PC