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OPIOID POLICY

We accept patient's dependent on Opioids. These substances can be life threatening if taken in excess or combined with other sedating medications such as benzodiazepines, barbiturates, hypnotics, and alcohol.

We treat Opioid dependent patients primarily with buprenorphine; a controlled substance that is closely monitored by regulatory authorities and requires frequent toxicology screenings. Maximum slots available are 100 for patient taking any form of buprenorphine such as suboxone, subutex or generic at our clinic.

We accept patients with Opioid dependency with chronic pain on a limited basis. Often patients with chronic pain have comorbid mood disorders and may develop dependency on pain medication; and on the other hand there are a number of pain disorders like fibromyalgia, atypical facial pain that are referred to a psychiatrist.

We are not a registered pain clinic nor are we a methadone clinic for pure Opioid dependent patients. If primary problem is chronic pain with no associated Opioid dependency and/or mood disorder then a referral to an outside a pain clinic will be made. Likewise, patients with chronic pain requiring a procedure for a pain relief or requiring high doses of Opioid will be referred to an outside pain specialist.

Like most patients on controlled substances, a controlled substance agreement will need to be signed and kept in patients file. All patients on Opioid will be referred for ongoing counseling. Counseling support for Opioid dependency can be provided in the clinic (counselors in the office) or they can be referred to NA or other Agency. We always prefer patients to eventually wean off themselves of any potentially dangerous substances whenever possible.