

# Arizona Pain and Spine Institute

## CONSENT FOR CHRONIC OPIOID THERAPY

A Consent from the **American Academy of Pain Medicine**

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ is prescribing Opioid medicine, sometimes called narcotic analgesics, to me for a diagnosis of \_\_\_\_\_.

The decision was made because my condition is serious or other treatments have not helped my pain. I am aware that the use of such medicine has certain risks associated with it, including, but not limited to: sleepiness or drowsiness, constipation, nausea, itching, vomiting, dizziness, dependence, tolerance to analgesia, addiction and possibility that the medicine will not provide complete pain relief. I am aware about the possible risks and benefits of other types of treatments that do not involve the use of Opioid. The other treatments include:

1) Making no change to current medical regime. 2) Discontinue current regimen completely. 3) Seeking psychological and/or psychiatric evaluation and treatment in addition to other options. 4) Initiation of physical and/or occupational therapy. 5) Seeking surgical consultation. 6) Proceeding with interventional therapy. 7) Using only non-Opioid agents.

I will tell my doctor about all other medicines and treatments that I am receiving.

I will not be involved in any activity that may be dangerous to me or someone else if I feel drowsy or am not thinking clearly. I am aware that even if I do not notice it, my reflexes and reaction time might still be slowed. Such activities include, but are not limited to: using heavy equipment or a motor vehicle, working in unprotected heights or being responsible for another individual who is unable to care to himself or herself.

I am aware that certain other medications such as nalbuphine (Nubain), pentazocine (Talwoino), buprenorphine (Buprenex o), and butorphanol (Stadol o), may reverse the action of the medicine I am using for pain control. Taking any of these other medicines while I am taking my pain medicines can cause symptoms like bad flu, called a withdrawal symptom. I agree not to take any of these medicines and to tell any other doctors that I am taking an Opioid as my pain medicine and cannot take any of the medicines listed above.

I am aware that addiction is defined as the use of a medicine even if it causes harm, having cravings for a drug, feeling the need to use a drug and a decreased quality of life. I am aware that the chance of becoming addicted to my pain medicine is very low. I am aware that the development of addiction has been reported rarely in medical journals and is much more common in person who has a family or personal history of addiction. I agree to tell my doctor my complete and honest personal drug history and that of my family to the best of my knowledge.

I understand that physical dependence is a normal, expected result of using these medicines for a long time. I understand that physical dependence is not the same as addiction. I am aware physical dependence means that if my pain medicine use is markedly decreased, stopped, or reversed by some of the agents mentioned above, I will experience a withdrawal syndrome. This means I may have any or all the following: runny nose, yawning, large pupils, goose bumps, abdominal pain and cramping, diarrhea, irritability, aches throughout my body and a flu-like feeling. I am aware that Opioid withdrawal is uncomfortable but not life threatening.

I am aware that tolerance to analgesia means that I may require more medicine to get the same amount of relief. I am aware that tolerance to analgesia does not seem to be a big problem for most patients with chronic pain, however, it has been seen and may occur to me. If it occurs, increasing does may not always help and may cause my doctor to choose another form of treatment.

**(Males Only)** I am aware that chronic Opioid use has been associated with low testosterone level is normal.

**(Females Only)** If I plan to become pregnant or believe that I have become pregnant while taking this pain medicine, I will immediately call my obstetric doctor and this office to inform them. I am aware that, should I carry a bay to delivery while taking these medicines, the baby will be physically dependent upon Opioid. I am aware that the use of opioids is not generally associated with risk of birth defects. However, birth defects can occur whether or not the mother is on medicines and there is always the possibility that my child will have a birth defect while I am taking an Opioid.

I have read this form or had it read to me. I understand all of it I have had a chance to have all of my questions regarding this treatment answered to my satisfaction. By signing this form voluntarily, I give my consent for the treatment of my pain with Opioid pain medicines.

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness to above \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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