

Narcotics Prescription Policy

As a result of the increasing awareness of narcotic dependence and abuse, Northern Arizona Orthopaedics (NAO) will closely manage its patients' use of prescription narcotics in accordance with the following **policy guidelines**:

1. For patients referred by a medical practitioner outside of NAO: The referring provider is responsible for managing all pain medications until a final treatment plan has been recommended by a physician at NAO. The final treatment plan is dependent upon the NAO physician having all of the diagnostic tests available for his/her review in order to make a diagnosis and recommend a treatment plan. Narcotics are rarely part of the initial treatment plan.
2. For patients who are self-referred to NAO, non-operative: Narcotic pain relievers will not be prescribed at the initial consultation. In the event a non-operative management strategy is implemented, and narcotic pain management is required, it will be limited to 10 days.
3. For post-surgical patients: In the event surgery has been performed by a surgeon at NAO, postoperative narcotic pain management by NAO will be limited to 10 days. Careful reassessment will take place for further prescription needs. Much of what we treat is painful, and we want to be sure that your pain and recovery is well managed. All refills of medications are controlled by the State of Arizona. (See below)
4. If the patient has a pain management provider outside of NAO, then the NAO physician will coordinate postoperative pain management with that physician. After the postoperative period, the patient will resume management with that provider. Any patient requesting narcotic pain medications beyond 8-weeks will be referred to a pain management provider.
5. For patients who have a current pain management contract with an outside provider: NAO will not assume refilling baseline narcotics for those patients who are on opiates for chronic pain or under the care of a pain management physician.
6. Requests for new prescriptions or prescription refills: If a patient has not been seen in the offices of NAO during the preceding 3 months, no prescriptions will be written without reassessment of the patient. Prescriptions for controlled substances must be written or printed. No phone or electronic refills are permitted. Prescription refills and/or new prescriptions will not be issued on days NAO is closed. Refills may require up to 5 working days.

Note: Arizona Revised Statute 36-2606 requires review of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP or "Pharm Board") before prescribing pain medication. All providers will obtain the PDMP report before prescriptions are provided to the patient.

I have read and agree to the Northern Arizona Orthopaedics Narcotics Prescription Policy.

PRINT HERE

NAO Patient Name (PLEASE PRINT)

SIGN HERE

Signature

Date: _____