



Agreement on Controlled Substances Therapy

Dear _____,

The purpose of this agreement is to protect your access to controlled substances and protect our ability to prescribe for you.

The long-term use of such substances as opioids (narcotic analgesics), benzodiazepines, tranquilizers, and barbiturate sedatives is controversial because of uncertainty regarding the extent to which they provide long-term benefit. There is also the risk of an addictive disorder developing or of relapse occurring in a person with a prior addiction.

Because these drugs have potential for abuse or diversion, strict accountability is necessary when use is prolonged. For this reason the following policies are agreed to by you, the patient, as consideration for, and condition of, the willingness of the provider whose signature appears below to consider the initial and/or continued prescription of controlled substances to treat your chronic pain.

1. Typically, providers at Midwest Spine & Brain Institute will usually manage select prescription medications intended to assist in controlling acute pain for up to 90 days after surgery.
2. If you are bound by a Controlled Substances Agreement at another facility, please consult with that facility before signing below. This document should **not** be viewed as an agreement to begin prescribing controlled substances.
3. If a Midwest Spine & Brain Institute provider begins prescribing controlled substances, *all* controlled substances thereafter must come from the Midwest Spine Institute provider(s) whose signature appears below or, during his or her absence, by the covering provider, unless specific authorization is obtained for an exception. (Multiple sources can lead to untoward drug interactions or poor coordination of treatment.)
4. All controlled substances must be obtained at the same pharmacy, whenever possible. Should the need to arise to change pharmacies, our office must be informed prior to the medication refill.
5. You are expected to inform our office of any new medications or medical conditions, and of any adverse effects you experience from any of the medications that you take.
6. You may not share, sell, or otherwise permit others to have access to these medications.
7. The prescribing provider has permission to discuss all diagnostic and treatment details with dispensing pharmacists or other professionals who provide your health care for purposes of maintaining accountability.
8. These drugs should not be stopped abruptly, as an abstinence syndrome will likely develop.

9. Unannounced urine or serum toxicology screens may be requested, and your cooperation is required. Presence of unauthorized substances may prompt referral for assessment for addictive disorder.
10. Prescriptions and bottles of these medications may be sought by other individuals with chemical dependency and should be closely safeguarded. It is expected that you will take the highest possible degree of care with your medication and prescription. They should not be left where others might see or otherwise have access to them.
11. You may be required to bring original containers of medications to each office visit.
12. Since the drugs may be hazardous or lethal to a person who is not tolerant to their effects, especially a child, you must keep them out of reach of such people.
13. Medications may not be replaced if they are lost, get wet, are destroyed, left on an airplane, etc. If your medication has been stolen and you complete a police report regarding the theft, an exception may be made.
14. Early refills will not be given.
15. Prescriptions may be issued early if the provider or patient will be out of town when a refill is due. These prescriptions will contain instructions to the pharmacist that they not to be filled prior to the appropriate date.
16. If the responsible legal authorities have questions concerning your treatment, as might occur, for example, if you were obtaining medications at several pharmacies, all confidentiality is waived and these authorities may be given full access to our records of controlled substances administration.
17. Renewals are contingent on keeping scheduled appointments. Do not phone for prescriptions after hours or on weekends. We will not accommodate medication refills on a walk-in basis.
18. It should be understood that any medical treatment is initially a trial, and that continued prescription is contingent on evidence of benefit.
19. It is understood that failure to adhere to these policies may result in cessation of therapy with controlled substance prescribing by this provider or referral for further specialty assessment.
20. You affirm that you have full right and power to sign and be bound by this agreement, and that you have read, understand, and accept all of its terms.

Patient Signature

Date

Patient Name (Printed)

Provider Name