

Arthritis & Rheumatic Diseases, P.C.  
329/331 McLaws Circle  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(757) 220-8579

## Opioid Prescription Drug Policy

Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases will maintain the following opioid prescription drug policy for ALL patients receiving narcotic prescriptions from our practice, effective 11/1/2015.

Prescriptions for pain management are given initially as a trial and only continued based on evidence that the patient is receiving benefit from that prescription. The goal of using narcotics and/or other medications is to decrease pain and/or increase functional level. If pain does not significantly decrease and/or function increase, Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases reserves the right to stop prescribing that medication.

Any patient prescribed controlled substances/narcotics by providers at Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases is required to read, sign, and understand our Controlled Substance Treatment Agreement. Without this signed agreement, controlled substances will not be prescribed to patients. If a patient is found to be in violation of this agreement, all prescription writing for controlled substances will cease, and patient may be referred to Pain Management, or discharged from our practice.

In accordance with FDA, state and federal regulations, concerning the prescribing of controlled substances, ALL of our providers, check the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Registry for any patients taking narcotic prescriptions to prevent and detect prescription drug misuse and diversion, and improve patient care through better coordination of care.

Based upon federal guidelines from the DEA, Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases will only provide a 30 day supply of pain medications at a time, including prescriptions for mail off pharmacies. If a patient's usual physician is out of town and a patient is needing a prescription refill, the covering provider has the right to either provide a 30 day supply of pain medication or to only prescribe enough pain medication for the patient until their usual provider returns to the office. If a patient is going out of town and requests a 90 day supply, our providers may give a patient 3 consecutive 30 day prescriptions with correct corresponding fill dates. Patients who will be out of the state longer than 90 days will need to arrange for health care at their travel destinations.

It is the right of Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases to require patients to participate in drug screening as part of their treatment plan. In order for patients to be prescribed narcotics by our office, patients must agree to have drug screening tests done at random times or on any day their physician/ nurse practitioner requests it. Screening may include urinalysis, blood testing or pill counts. Patients are responsible for paying all costs associated with drug testing not covered by their insurance. Refusal to submit to drug screening when requested, will result in termination of narcotic prescription writing by our providers, and may result in termination from our practice.

### Patient's Responsibility:

- Take medication as prescribed
- Fill all narcotic prescriptions at the same pharmacy, notify our office immediately if you change pharmacies
- Will not seek or fill any other narcotic prescriptions from any other medical or dental provider or facility.
- Instruct any other medical provider to confer with my provider at Arthritis & Rheumatic Diseases for any changes or need for additional narcotics.
- Safeguard all controlled substances provided by Arthritis & Rheumatic Diseases, PC.