



## The Family Health Centers & Opioid Medications

- Prescription Opioids are prescribed to treat moderate to severe acute or chronic pain when other treatments are not adequate. They can be very helpful in some circumstances but come with very serious risks, including serious injury and death.
- The Family Health Centers prescribes opioids in appropriate situations, but with very strict limitations for your safety.
- For acute pain, you will only be prescribed a five day or less supply of Opioid medication. If more is needed, an office visit is required.
- For chronic pain, you must sign an Agreement of Coordination of Care annually. You are required to keep scheduled appointments at least every three months to obtain prescriptions. You are required to provide an annual urine drug screen to confirm use of your medications and to ensure your safety. Your provider will also conduct appropriate screenings to assess your risk of addiction and abuse, and, will report results to the Prescription Monitoring Database to ensure appropriate and safe pharmacy use.
- Due to serious risks of death with moderate and high doses of Opioids, our policy is to limit these medications to safer levels and work with our patients to help them transition down to safer doses, if appropriate.
- Due to serious risks of death when using Opioids with other sedatives, our policy is to not prescribe both Opioids and Benzodiazepines (i.e., Xanax, etc.) or certain muscle relaxers.
- We coordinate your care with our in-house Clinical Pharmacist to help ensure the safest and most current level of care.
- The Family Health Centers' policy is that no Opioids will be prescribed at your first visit and not until prior records are reviewed.
- For more information on Opioid safety, please see our handout [here](#).

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