



College Hill OB-GYN

Narcotics in Gynecological Care Policy

Effective August 17, 2017

Purpose of our Policy

Narcotic dependence and abuse is a growing issue in the country, this community and in our practice and it does not come without risk to you. Because they have potential for abuse and addiction, their use is regulated by the U.S. Controlled Substance Act. Risks of narcotics include:

1. Accidents (car crashes, falls, etc.)
2. Overdose that could lead to death
3. Addiction and life-threatening withdrawal symptoms
4. Tolerance
5. Constipation
6. Hyperalgesia (increased sensation of pain)
7. Death

Our Narcotic Prescription Policy

Pain Management in the Office

- The doctors at College Hill OB-Gyn will **NOT** prescribe narcotics or opioids to you during your gynecologic care, unless you are scheduled for surgery within a 2-week time period. There are many other options for the management of your pain that we will utilize (NSAIDS, acetaminophen, muscle relaxers and physical therapy or specific gynecologic treatment).
- Pain that is related to medical conditions unrelated to your female health (IE: tooth abscess, migraine, joint or muscle pain), must be treated by your primary care physician (PCP). If you do not have a primary care doctor and it is urgent, you will be directed to an immediate care clinic of your choice.
- The doctors do **NOT** manage chronic narcotic use. If you use narcotics regularly for chronic pain, your current prescribing physician **MUST** continue that management. If you do not have a regular physician prescribing those medications, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find one.
- Please notify us if you are prescribed narcotics for chronic pain so that we can provide you with a letter to give to your PCP or pain management specialist stating their need to continue your chronic pain care.



After Your Surgery

- Prescriptions for pain (ibuprofen and a narcotic) are provided to you from the hospital or surgery center after your surgery. We believe that the standard prescription is sufficient pain control for our scope of surgeries. If you use all of your narcotic pain medication, substitution with acetaminophen (Tylenol) should be adequate.
- A single refill will be provided if you had a hysterectomy or a major surgery with a large abdominal incision.
- There will be no refills prescribed to you once it has been 6 weeks since your surgery.

Request for Refills

- All refills must be approved through your doctor. You are required to allow **48 hours** for us to process your refill request.
- All narcotic refills must be picked up from the front desk of our office. Your photo ID and the photo ID of the person picking up the refill must be provided for documentation purposes. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- It is your responsibility to keep your narcotic medications and your hand-written prescriptions in a safe and secure place. Therefore, we will **NOT** provide refills for stolen prescriptions or medications.