



**FAIRFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

Fairfield Memorial Hospital along with our Medical Staff have adopted a proactive policy relating to narcotic and sedation medication prescriptions written by Emergency Room Physicians.

Because we are increasingly concerned about the abuse of narcotics in our society, we discourage the use of narcotics except when absolutely necessary.

**Patients who have chronic pain will receive non-narcotic pain medication as temporary treatment of their pain.**

If narcotics are deemed necessary for treatment of an acute condition, a limited supply will be prescribed until the patient can follow-up with his or her primary physician or specialist. Refills on these prescriptions will not be granted. Further pain management may involve non-narcotic medications.

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## REFILLS

Prescriptions for narcotics and sedative medications that have been lost or expired **will not be refilled**. It is the patient's responsibility to maintain active prescriptions with his or her primary care physician, specialty physician, or pain control clinic that have regularly prescribed these medications. Patients who have chronic pain will receive non-narcotic pain medication as temporary treatment for their pain.

## FREQUENT ER VISITS

Patients who have frequent or multiple visits to the Emergency Department seeking relief from painful conditions will be considered to have **chronic pain** syndromes. Painful conditions include (but are not limited to) migraine headaches, back pain, pelvic or ovarian pain, dental pain, kidney stones, and fibromyalgia. In these cases, non-narcotic pain medication will be prescribed.

For acute problems, for which the ER physician feels it is appropriate to prescribe a narcotic or sedating medication (either by injection or by mouth), Fairfield Memorial Hospital requires that a driver be present before administering the medication.

It is recommended that the patient follow up with a primary care physician or specialist for definitive and continued care. It is the best approach and the patient's responsibility.