

# SAFE PAIN MEDICINE PRESCRIBING IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

We care about you. We are committed to treating you safely and in the right way.

Pain relief treatment can be complicated. Mistakes or abuse of pain medicine can cause serious health problems and death.

Our emergency department will only provide pain relief options that are safe and correct.



For your SAFETY, we follow these rules when helping you with your pain.

1. We look for and treat emergencies. We use our best judgment when treating pain. These recommendations follow legal and ethical advice.
2. You should have only ONE provider and ONE pharmacy helping you with pain. We do not usually prescribe pain medication if you already receive pain medicine from another health care provider.
3. If pain prescriptions are needed for pain, we can only give you a small amount.
4. We do not refill stolen prescriptions. We do not refill lost prescriptions. If your prescription is stolen, please contact the police.
5. We do not prescribe long acting pain medicines: OxyContin, MSContin, Dilaudid, Fentanyl (Duragesic), Methadone, Opana ER, Exalgo, and others.
6. We do not provide missing doses of Subutex, Suboxone, or Methadone.
7. We do not usually give shots for flare-ups of chronic pain. Medicines taken by mouth may be offered instead.
8. Health care laws, including HIPAA, allow us to ask for your medical records. These laws allow us to share information with other health providers who are treating you.
9. We may ask you to show a photo ID when you receive a prescription for pain medicines.
10. We use the California Prescription Drug Monitoring Program called CURES. This statewide computer system tracks narcotic and other controlled substance prescriptions.

If you need help with substance abuse or addiction, please call

**1-888-724-7240**

for confidential referral and treatment.

All the emergency departments in San Diego & Imperial Counties have agreed to participate in this important program.



**HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION**  
of San Diego and Imperial Counties

