



# Opioid pain medication guidelines

## at Samaritan Health Services

Welcome to our emergency department (ED). We will treat you as expediently as possible. If you are here with a complaint of **chronic pain**, please be aware of our policy on pain medications:

- We will **not** prescribe long-acting opioids (*OxyContin, MSContin, Fentanyl, Duragesic, methadone, etc.*)
- We will also not prescribe Schedule 2 controlled substances (*oxycodone, Percocet, Dilaudid/hydromorphone, morphine/MSContin, etc.*) for **chronic conditions**.
- If you have a prescription for a pain medication or sedative from your primary care physician or another ED, **we will not prescribe an additional medication for you**. Any exception to this will occur only after a urine test and a discussion with your primary care physician.
- We will not give an opioid or sedative injection for exacerbated **chronic pain** or anxiety.
- We will not refill lost or stolen prescriptions for opioid pain medications or other controlled substances.
- If you missed a regular dose of methadone, we will not provide it.
- We will offer you non-opioid pain medication, on a short-term treatment basis, if you have exacerbated **chronic pain**.
- Health care laws **do** allow us to discuss your medical record and visits with your primary care physician and other EDs.
- If you visit us frequently for your **chronic condition(s)**, we will develop a plan with you to optimize your care. Our ED staff will work with your primary care physician to develop this plan, which will be shared with our inpatient physicians if you are admitted. We will also share this plan with other EDs to promote consistent treatment and management of your condition(s).
- If you are seeking help with an addiction, we are happy to help you. We can provide you with local resources, treatment centers and counseling options. We can also discuss medications that help lessen the symptoms of withdrawal.