

Safe Prescribing of Opioids in the Emergency Departments of Santa Clara County



We care about you. Our goal is to treat your medical conditions, including pain, effectively, 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 routinely 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 will only give you a limited 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 such as: OxyContin, MSContin, Fentanyl (Duragesic), Methadone, Opana ER, Exalgo, and others.
6. We do not provide missed 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 all of 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 opioid pain medications and other controlled substance prescriptions.



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SANTA CLARA COUNTY
Behavioral Health Services

Verity Medical Foundation

Opioid safety at home:

- Do not combine opioids with alcohol or other sedative substances.
- Protect family and visitors by storing opioids in a locked box.
- Dispose of unused medication promptly and safely - visit the DontRushToFlush web site..
- If you take opioid medication daily , ask your doctor to prescribe Naloxone, used to reverse accidental opioid overdose.
- If you have experienced one overdose, the risk of another overdose is high and you may not survive. Talk to your doctor about Buprenorphine treatment.

If you need help with confidential referral for treatment for substance abuse or addiction, call

Gateway
1-800-488-9919

or **1-800-662-HELP**
(4357)