

**Request for Controlled Substances for Pain**

Is it **acute pain** or for problem that IS expected to resolve?

YES

Treat as indicated.

Is it **chronic pain** or for a problem that is NOT expected to resolve?

YES

Is there a physician who primarily manages this patient's pain?

YES

Communicate with Primary Pain Provider (PPP)

NO

Take responsibility as Primary Pain Provider or until transition to PPP

- [www.paineducation.vcu.edu](http://www.paineducation.vcu.edu)
- € Pain Education Curriculum
  - € Pain Assessment Tools
  - € Equi-analgesic Dosing Cards
  - € Pharmacology Tables
  - € Informed Consent & Agreement
  - € Prescription Monitoring Program
  - € Urine Toxicology Testing Tables

- Principles of Pain Management**
- € Acknowledge a patient's report of pain.
  - € Share responsibility for managing pain.
  - € Apply a multi-modal approach when treating pain.
  - € Identify outcome goals when treating pain.
  - € Communicate with Providers about pain management.
  - € Promote appropriate use of prescribed controlled substance medications.
  - € Utilize tools and resources in pain management.
  - € Be informed of the Federation of State Medical Board's Model Policy in pain management.

- Questions**
1. Is there another physician that has provided you with prescriptions for pain (examples)?
  2. If so, when was your last dose of each?
  3. Do you take any medications that tend to make you sleepy (examples)?
  4. Describe your living situation.
  5. Are you currently depressed or anxious?
  6. Do you smoke cigarettes? Drink alcohol?
  7. Use marijuana or any other street drugs?
  8. Have you had any trouble with the legal system such driving under the influence or jail time?

Information to assess Prescription Drug Misuse (PDM) and interpret PMP and UTox.

Educate about use of sedating medications in combination with opioids.

Consult Psychiatric Services. UTox if "YES."

Substance use/abuse and legal history increases risk of PDM. UTox if "YES."

**Access Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)  
Consider Urine Toxicology Testing**

Is **BENEFIT > RISK\***

Multi-modal treatment **WITH controlled substances**  
Define Outcome Goals.  
Follow-up < 4 weeks.

**Considering opioids along with a multi-modal treatment approach.**

Is **RISK\* > BENEFIT?**

Multi-modal treatment **WITHOUT controlled substances**

Ensure enough medication until FOLLOW-UP or TRANSITION to PPP  
Reduces follow-up phone calls and urgent/ED utilization

**Pain and/or function improved?**  
**If YES:**

- € Continue treatment
- € Establish agreement
- € Periodic monitoring (PMP, UTox)

**IF NO:** Adjust, change, or stop medications

\*RISK may be adverse effects; impact on co-morbidities; prescription drug misuse (PDM)