

Date

Name

Address

Address

Dear

As you may be aware, information over the last several years has indicated that taking opioid medicine on a daily basis for chronic pain is not the best treatment. In addition it involves very significant risks, including accidents, injuries, impotence (for men), accidental overdose, an increased risk of heart disease and premature death. We here at PCHC are committed to providing the best care possible and that requires us to consider both the effectiveness and the safety of any treatment. When it comes to the kind of medication which you have been taking, it is now clear that the very serious risks far outweigh the benefit. In fact there are no studies at all which demonstrate any benefit from the use of these medications in treating chronic pain.

Therefore I will be working with you to develop a new treatment plan for your pain. I will stick with you through this process and offer all of the available proven treatments for your pain, but I will also be tapering you off your opioid medication. This taper will be careful but steady as we identify other means of treating your pain. I know that you may find this dissatisfying but I am convinced that it is the right thing to do. I am happy to discuss this with you, and to engage you in developing your new treatment plan. I do want to emphasize that this decision will not be reversed. It's also important for you to know that while you are being tapered off the medication you will not have the option of transferring your care within PCHC and once you are off the medicine no PCHC provider will restart it. Although you may wish to do that it is too disruptive, interferes with sound medical decision making and just puts the next provider in the position of carrying out these necessary changes.

Sincerely,