



today's date _____ Patient Name _____ date of birth _____

Prescription Medication Side Effect Agreement

Patients starting on or having changes to their chronic opioid therapy should be informed as part of their consent to therapy that cognitive impairment may occur. Changes in cognitive function might include: somnolence, fatigue, dizziness, clouded mentation, decreased ability to concentrate, slowed motor performance, slowed reflexes, increased response time to stimuli, and impaired coordination. These cognitive opioid-related adverse effects could potentially impair patients' abilities to drive or work safely.

Statistics about the incidence of cognitive impairment due to chronic opioid therapy vary, depending on the medical literature reviewed, but do reinforce that it is a significant consideration. Medical studies and reviews suggest that motor vehicle accidents, motor vehicle fatalities, and citations for impaired driving, are not disproportionately associated with opioid use. One literature review found that the majority of the reviewed studies (69.6%) indicated that opioids do not impair psychomotor abilities in opioid-dependent patients. Despite this, it is especially important to consider when first initiating opioid therapy, increasing opioid doses, or when prescribing with other drugs or substances that affect the central nervous system.

Certain pain medications including opioids, muscle relaxants, anti-anxiety agents, and antidepressants may cause a decrease in alertness, concentration, coordination and response time. If you are experiencing any of these side effects with medication used to treat your chronic pain condition, you should refrain from driving or operating any heavy equipment and you should inform your pain physician/ medical provider immediately. Your pain medication may be modified to minimize such side effects and allow you to drive or operate heavy equipment safely.

If you ever require an increase or change in your pain medications, this may decrease alertness, attention span, coordination and response time for approximately one to two weeks until the medications stabilize in your system. For this reason, any time you receive an increase or change in your medications, you should refrain from driving until you feel confident that your alertness, coordination, and response time have returned to an adequate level.

I _____ have read the above information or it has been read to me and I have been given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the treatment of my pain with medications that may cause cognitive impairment.

Patient's Signature _____
Date _____

Witness's Signature _____
Date _____