

[PATIENT LETTER – CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT]

Dear Patient:

Doctors, nurses, and pharmacists in Ohio are worried about the misuse of pain medicine. State officials are concerned too. We see too many deaths from the misuse of pain medicine.

Every time you fill your prescription for pain medicine, it goes into a registry. Anyone who writes a prescription for pain medicine must check that registry. We all are working together to make sure people get treated for pain safely.

That is why I will talk with you about a plan to treat your pain, including any pain medicines I prescribe for you.

Here are some things we will discuss:

- Your pain level, medicines and treatment.
- Your medical records.
- What happens when you take pain medicine for a long time
- The proper use of your medicines. We want to make sure you safely store them. We do not want anyone else taking your medicines.
- I may need to talk to your other doctors, nurses and dentists about the medicines you take.

I also want you to answer these questions with me:

1. Does your pain prevent you from normal activities?
2. What side effects might happen if you take pain medicine?
3. What signs of unusual behavior do we need to look for?

We may ask you to sign a patient agreement that includes things like:

- Participating in treatments that do not include some types of pain medicine.
- Telling the doctor's office about other medicines you are taking, and when another doctor gives you a prescription for a new medicine.
- Periodic drug screens
- One pharmacy for prescriptions
- One doctor to prescribe your pain medicine
- What happens if you do not follow this agreement

You may need to see a specialist. This would be a physician who treats the part of the body where you feel pain.

I am concerned about your safety. Call me if you ever think you are addicted to your medicine. You also can call the 1-877-275-6364 toll-free number. Your call is confidential. They will refer you to someone for help. You can call them from Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

I look forward to helping you with your pain.

Sincerely,