

## Ambulatory Oncology and Hematology Medication Policy

In order to provide our patients with the safest and highest quality care, we need to form a partnership with our patients related to the safe and accurate administration of home medications. Many of our patients take several medications, some of which are high risk; therefore it is critical for us to have an accurate record of what our patients are taking at home.

**Below are guidelines that we will follow in clinic in order to ensure your safety:**

All medications must be taken as prescribed. Please inform the clinic immediately if changes have occurred that are inconsistent with your medication list. At each clinic visit, you will be asked to review your home medication list, please update this list as accurately as possible with the clinic staff.

It is recommended that all patients have an active Primary Care Physician to follow up on general health issues and non-oncology issues. Primary care physicians are often great resources for patients who live out of town and need symptom management.

The following is our policy regarding the safe prescribing of pain medications. We will not provide early refills for excessive consumption. Please discuss your pain control with your provider to ensure that you are on the best regimen to control your pain.

All prescriptions (Oxycodone, Dilaudid, Percocet, Morphine, etc.) can either be mailed, picked up by the patient or an approved family member, or electronically if your pharmacy allows. This is a federal legal requirement and there are no possible exceptions. If prescriptions are to be mailed, please allow additional time for mailing.

Patients are advised to not drive, operate heavy equipment, make important decisions or consume alcohol while on prescription pain medication. If you become pregnant, please stop pain medications immediately and contact your OB/GYN.

In cases where pain medications are stolen, it is mandatory for a police report to be filed and a copy given to the clinic to obtain a refill. If pain medications are stolen a second time, no refills will be given regardless if a police report has been filed.

If you should experience a pain crisis after hours, where your prescribed medication does not alleviate your pain, you may call the on-call provider. Please keep in mind they may direct you to the Emergency Department for assessment and pain control.

If your pain is particularly difficult to control, your provider may recommend consultation with the Pain Clinic or Palliative Care Service. These physicians are experts in pain management and symptom control.

At the discretion of the treating provider, the patient may be weaned to over the counter medication or transitioned to their primary care provider for continued pain management when appropriate.