

**Non-Opiate Care and Controlled Substance Policy**

At **Primary Medicine of Sunnyvale**, our clinical philosophy focuses on addressing the root causes of medical conditions using evidence-based medical treatments. **This facility is not a pain management clinic.**

To ensure patient safety, reduce the risk of dependency, and comply with state and federal guidelines, our clinic maintains a strict default policy against prescribing opioid pain medications.

**1. General Prescribing Restriction**

- **Non-Opiate Default:** Our providers do not prescribe opioid medications (such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, tramadol, or codeine) for routine, acute, or chronic pain management.
- **Alternative Therapies:** Pain concerns will be addressed using safer, multi-modal treatments. These may include non-opioid medications (such as NSAIDs or nerve-pain stabilizers), topical treatments, physical therapy, lifestyle modifications, or specialist referrals.

**2. Strict Exceptions for Absolute Necessity**

- **Provider Discretion:** Opioid medications may only be considered if a clinic provider deems them **absolutely medically necessary for a limited duration** after a comprehensive evaluation.
- **Criteria for Necessity:** "Absolute necessity" is strictly limited to severe, objective clinical events, such as immediate post-surgical recovery from a procedure performed at our clinic, acute traumatic injury, or documented end-of-life/palliative care and up to discretion of the provider.
- **No Guarantees:** A request for pain medication by a patient, or a previous prescription from another facility, does not guarantee that a provider at this clinic will issue an opioid prescription.

**3. Texas Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)**

- **Mandatory Checks:** In compliance with Texas law, our providers are required to check the Texas Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) database before prescribing any controlled substance.
- **Discrepancies:** Any history of uncoordinated refills, multiple prescribing providers ("doctor shopping"), or conflicting controlled substance use will result in the immediate denial of opioid therapy.

**4. Chronic Pain Referrals**

- Patients requiring ongoing, long-term management for chronic pain conditions will not be managed at this facility.
- Our clinic will provide a referral to a dedicated, board-certified pain management specialist or clinic equipped to handle long-term controlled substance therapy safely.

**5. Medication-Seeking Behavior and Dismissal**

- **Definition of Seeking Behavior:** Outpatients who exhibit drug-seeking behaviors—including falsifying symptoms, escalating demands for specific narcotic brands, altering prescriptions, aggression toward staff regarding narcotics, or obtaining concurrent controlled substances from other providers—will not be tolerated.
- **Immediate Dismissal:** Exhibiting these behaviors undermines the clinical trust necessary for safe care. Discovery of medication-seeking behavior may result in the **immediate initiation of formal dismissal** from **Primary Medicine of Sunnyvale**.
- **Transition of Care:** Upon dismissal, the clinic will issue a formal written notice in accordance with Texas Medical Board guidelines, providing emergency-only coverage for the legally mandated period while you transition to another healthcare facility.

**6. Mandatory Random Drug Testing and Pill Counts**

- **Random Testing Requirement:** To ensure patient safety, monitor treatment compliance, and mitigate risks, patients prescribed controlled substances at this facility are required to submit to **random, unannounced urine and/or blood drug screenings** at the provider's request.
- **Refusal or Failure:** Refusing to submit to a drug test, failing to provide a sample within a designated timeframe, or tampering with a specimen will be treated as non-compliance.
- **Test Results:** Testing positive for illicit substances, non-prescribed controlled medications, or testing negative for the medication prescribed by this clinic constitutes a violation of this policy.
- **Pill Counts:** The clinic reserves the right to request random, in-person pill counts within 24 hours of notification.

**Patient Acknowledgment**

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to **Primary Medicine of Sunnyvale** Non-Opiate Care and Controlled Substance Policy. I understand that this clinic does not provide routine opioid or pain management services.

**Patient Name (Printed):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Patient Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_