

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR THE PRESCRIBING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

A controlled substance is a medication with a likelihood for physical and mental dependence, and fall into a category between Schedule I through Schedule V. This doesn't mean they are inherently dangerous or should be avoided, however they should be administered and used very responsibly. This responsibility lays with the prescriber (your doctor or provider) and equally as important, you - the patient. Pharmaceuticals (controlled and not controlled) are just one set of therapeutic tools available to your provider at SGP. Your mental health well-being is paramount and if medications of any type are used in your therapy, it is done with the most judicious consideration of your individuality and potential for benefiting from such therapies. But as such, you must be aware of, and committed to the policies as it relates to using controlled medications.

The use of controlled medications such as opioids, stimulants, anxiolytics and benzodiazepines are effective to maximize treatment outcomes, improve a patient's level of functioning and are an important part of any medication regime recommended by your provider.

It's unfortunate that these medications have a history of being overused, misused, or even given or sold to people for whom the medication was not intended. Also, these medications have a considerable tendency towards dependency and addiction and can cause unpleasant and even dangerous withdrawal symptoms.

SGP recognizes that addiction is a very powerful disease, is somewhat unpredictable and can cause individuals to act differently than their own moral values and logic would normally cause them to. In order to assure proper utilization of all prescribed controlled medications and to maintain the highest degree of professional integrity as well as the safety of our patients, SGP insists upon the need to agree that the following rules apply to the prescription of your controlled medication:

- You Understand that if prescribed, controlled substances can cause sedation, confusion, or other changes in mental state and thinking abilities. I understand that the decision to drive while I am taking controlled substances is my own decision, and I agree not to be involved in any activity that may be dangerous to me or someone else, such as driving or operating any dangerous equipment, working in unprotected heights or being responsible for another individual who is unable to care for himself or herself if I am in any way sedated, feel drowsy, or am not thinking clearly.
- You agree to use one pharmacy for your controlled medication prescription and will notify SGP in advance if you need to change pharmacy for any reason.
- All controlled medication must be used as prescribed only, without any adjustments or modifications.
- It is your responsibility to guard and protect your medication. If it is stolen, lost, or damaged it will be replaced by prescription one time only.
 - Reporting a stolen prescription will require a police report before refilled.
- The supply of controlled medication is largely dictated by statute and will be calculated by your provider in a fashion such that the medication will last until the next scheduled visit, in consideration of prescribed dosing frequency. If a visit is cancelled by you, your provider, weather, or other acts of God, an additional supply of medication will be prescribed to last until the next available visit.
- Repeated cancellations will result in dismissal from care.
- It is dangerous to have controlled medications prescribed by more than one prescriber/physician. Therefore, it is your responsibility to notify SGP if you are prescribed controlled medication by any other medical professional.
- Failure to do so will result in dismissal from care.
- SGP will verify with the Connecticut Prescription Monitoring Program, as required by standard of practice, to determine if you are prescribed controlled medications and use this information in forming a prescribing decision.
- You agree to the possibility of a random or scheduled submission of a urine sample as deemed necessary and/or appropriate.
 - Refusal will result in dismissal from care.
- You agree to the possibility of random medication counts as deemed necessary and/or appropriate.
 - Refusal will result in dismissal from care.
- Any noncompliance with treatment is a basis for immediate discontinuation of care which includes the discontinuation of medication prescription. Taper doses will be provided only if deemed clinically necessary by your provider.