Patient Information Regarding Dispensing or Prescribing of Controlled Substances in the Emergency Room

Please be aware that ALL emergency room physicians in the state of Kentucky must adhere to the strict professional standards for prescribing or dispensing controlled substances as set forth by the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure.

Emergency Room Standards for Prescribing or Dispensing Controlled Substances:

1) Before prescribing or dispensing a controlled substance, your healthcare provider is required to search your personal record in the state controlled substance database, (KASPER). If the physician cannot obtain a KASPER report for review, the physician is discouraged from prescribing or dispensing a controlled substance.

2) All emergency room physicians are strongly discouraged by the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure from the:
   (a) Administration of Demerol (Meperadine) to a patient;
   (b) Prescribing of long-acting or controlled-released controlled substances such as OxyContin, fentanyl patches, or methadone or replacement doses of such medications;
   (c) Administration of intravenous and/or intramuscular controlled substances for the relief of acute exacerbations of chronic pain;
   (d) Providing replacement doses of methadone, suboxone, or subutex for patients in a treatment program;
   (e) Providing replacement prescriptions for controlled substances that were lost, destroyed, or stolen;
   (f) Prescribing or dispensing more than a three (3) day supply of a controlled substance, with no refills.

Disclosure of Risks of Using Narcotic Pain Medication

If your emergency department physician has provided you with a prescription for a narcotic pain medication, please be aware of the following and ask your doctor or nurse for clarification of any questions you may have.

1) Narcotics have a strong potential for addiction and substance abuse. You could develop an addiction is a short period of time, as short as a few days.
2) Excessive use of narcotics may produce an effect of tolerance to pain medication, resulting in a situation where it will become difficult or impossible to provide pain relief.
3) Possible side effects of narcotic usage include sedation, respiratory depression, swelling in the feet, dental decay acceleration, hives, itching, slurred speech, impaired thinking and function to the point a person may be dangerous when driving or operating machinery. Severe side effects could result in ICU admission, coma and/or death.
4) Sudden cessation of high dose narcotics will result in severe abdominal cramping, severe anxiety, rapid heart rate, elevated blood pressure, nausea, etc. Therefore, it is prudent to use the narcotics as prescribed

It is important that you read and follow all directions, warnings and precautions associated with the medication before taking the first dosage.

Our goal is to provide narcotics when deemed appropriate utilizing the guidelines of Federal laws, State laws, State regulations and adhering to the requirements of licensing boards. Narcotics are one avenue of pain control, and never represent the sole method of pain control.

Effective July 20, 2012