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POLICIES

FOLLOW UP VISITS AND PROCEDURES

PROCEDURES

Our physicians perform interventional pain management. In all likelihood you will be scheduled for a procedure involving injections. The different procedures that we perform are listed in the **Procedures** section and you may click on each individual procedure for short video describing the procedure and the purpose of the procedure. You may also review the **Post Procedure Instructions** listed on the web site. The **Informed Consent** for procedures is listed in the **Forms** section. You are required to have someone accompany you for all procedure visits to drive you home. You will not be sedated for the injections but your legs might feel shaky and as a safety precaution, you should not operate any machinery or drive for several hours following the procedure. Plan on sedentary activity the day of your procedure. Ask for specific instructions from the clinical staff. When you improve, please use common sense and gradually increase your activity. Some patients experience increased pain for 24-48 hours after an injection.

Cervical procedures and discograms are the only procedures that require fasting (no eating or drinking) six hours prior to the procedure. You will specifically be advised if fasting is required.

If you are on any type of blood thinner, please consult with our clinical staff to determine (1) if you are required to discontinue those medications a week before your procedure or (2) if a test will be required prior to the day of your procedure to determine if the procedure can be performed.

APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING

Appointments are required and a specific appointment time is allotted for each office visit and procedure. We make every effort to schedule your appointment as timely as possible. However, when our schedule is full we maintain a wait list for those who request appointments earlier than the available appointment schedule. If you are unable to keep your appointment, please notify our office at least 24 hours prior to the appointment. Failure to do so will result in charges for the missed appointment. Advance notification allows scheduling of another patient who is on our wait list.

PHONE CALLS

There are problems and issues which cannot be handled over the phone. You will be required to schedule an appointment for those issues. Please refer to the **Phone Call Policy** under **Patient Information** section to determine appropriate requests.

DRUG TESTING

Part of our evaluation of a new patient routinely includes a drug test. We also perform drug test on patients when indicated in the physician assessment and plan. Additionally, we utilize a random testing that is computer generated by an outside source (usually the lab).

A preliminary test is performed in our office and the test is forwarded to an outside lab for confirmation and additional analysis. The charges for these tests will be filed with your insurance and are normally covered.



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DISMISSAL

You are required to sign an *agreement* with our office at your initial consult which outlines the requirements we set forth with our patients for compliance with our treatment. If you fail to comply with this agreement then you will be dismissed from our practice. Causes for dismissal include (but not limited to) results of drug test indicating noncompliance, other noncompliance issues such as multiple missed appointments and failure to maintain your financial agreement. Notification of dismissal will be sent via Certified Mail with copies to the referring physician.