SWEDISH PHYSICIAN DIVISION

Informed Consent for Use of Opioid Pain Medication

Name: _____

Dr. _____ is prescribing opioid pain medicine (narcotics) to you for

_____because other treatments have not helped your pain.

Indication for Use:

Not all pain responds to opioids. Being completely pain-free may not be possible. Some pain may only partially respond to opioids. Medications are only part of the solution and will not solve all of your pain. Exercising on a regular basis and using other pain management self-care techniques are equally or even more important.

You may need to stop opioid medication under these circumstances:

- Not getting enough pain relief
- Persistent side effects
- No improvement in function
- Not able to comply with the treatment plan

Side-Effects and Risks:

1. Opioids may cause sleepiness, respiratory depression, or death.
2. Opioids may cause decreased reaction time, clouded judgment, problems with coordination and balance. When taking opioids you must be careful when driving or operating machinery. Alcohol can add to the clouding of your judgment and you should not drink and drive when taking opioids.
3. Opioids can cause or worsen sleep apnea. You should inform your provider if you snore a lot, if you have previously been diagnosed with sleep apnea or have any other sleeping disorders.
4. Additional side effects you could possibly experience when taking opioid pain medicine include:
   - Nausea
   - Itching
   - Sweating
   - Depression- may occur or worsen
   - Dry-mouth
   - Constipation
   - Lower testosterone levels in men with decrease in bone density
   - Infertility, fatigue, depression, anxiety, loss of muscle strength and mass and compression fractures in both men and women
   - Menstrual irregularities
   - Potential for decrease in sexual desire and performance
   - Potential for increased pain
   - You may be prescribed other pain medications that have additional side effects and risks not listed. You will need to discuss these with your provider.
5. Side effects may be made worse if you mix opioids with other drugs,
6. Physical dependence may develop. This means it is possible that stopping the drug will cause you to miss or crave it.
7. Tolerance may develop. This means you may need more and more drug to get the same effect. When you take more medication to achieve pain relief, the risk for side effects increases.
8. Addiction. A small percentage of patients may develop addiction problems which require special treatments.
9. If you are pregnant or contemplating pregnancy additional risks for your unborn child must be considered. You will need to discuss these risks with your provider.

Taking your medications:

1. You must take opioid medicine only as directed. Federal law prohibits selling or giving this medication to anyone else. You are responsible for securely storing your medications so others cannot have access to them.
2. Withdrawal symptom will develop if you stop the medication abruptly.

Opioid pain medicines have risks. You acknowledge that you have had the risks of opioid treatment explained to you and you have had an opportunity to ask questions and have those questions answered.

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____

Patient Name: Print _____ Date of Birth: _____

Physician Signature: _____ Date: _____