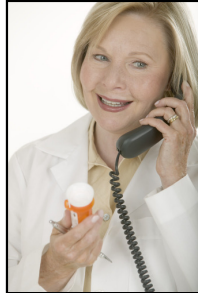


Q. What is your policy regarding writing pain scripts for newly referred patients? *Our specialists do not guarantee writing pain prescription(s) for a new patient and may defer prescription writing back to the referring physician. Our goal is to work together with our referring physicians to coordinate prescription writing to ensure the patient receives pain medications from only one source as mandated by the state pharmacy board.*

Q. Will the Pain Clinic take over the medical management of pain medications on patients who are referred? *If we accept your patient for treatment, our specialists will evaluate the patient to determine if other treatment options other than medication will alleviate pain. If a referring office would like for our specialists to assume medication management, we'll request the referring physician to write on a script pad of his/her intention to no longer prescribe narcotic medication for the patient. The note is then kept in the patient's medical chart.*



Q. What should a patient do if they have an issue or emergency related to their pain after office hours, during the weekend or on holidays? *Our pain specialists rotate on-call duty. However, if it is an emergency, the patient should go to their nearest emergency room.*

Q. If our office has an issue or concern, who should we contact? *Please feel free to contact our Main Office in Boardman with any questions at 330.629.2888 or toll free 1.888.784.4312.*

Q. What is an "Opioid/Scheduled Drug Agreement"? *All chronic pain clinic patients receiving narcotics from our practice must sign and comply to the conditions detailed in our Opioid/Scheduled Drug Agreement. The Agreement explains in detail what policies and procedures patients on narcotics must comply with in order to participate in our Chronic Opioid Program. Patients who are non-compliant may be subject to dismissal after three written violations or immediate dismissal from the practice depending on the severity of the violation.*

Q. Will the referring physician's office be notified when a mutual patient signs an "Opioid Agreement" or if the patient is dismissed from the Pain Clinic? *Yes, a letter will be faxed to the referring physician when a patient is prescribed narcotics and has signed our Opioid Agreement. A certified copy of the dismissal letter with reason for the dismissal is sent to the dismissed patient and a copy of the same letter will be sent to patient's referring physician office.*

Q. What happens to a patient who has been dismissed from the Pain Clinic? *The patient is advised to contact either their primary care physician or have the physician who referred them to our office to help them find another provider for their pain management. A copy of the patient's medical records will be sent at no charge and upon request by the new provider along with a signed medical records release from the patient.*

Q. What insurances does your office accept? *We accept a wide variety of commercial insurances as well as Medicare, Medicaid and Worker's Compensation. **Please Note:** Not all insurance plans are accepted at all Doctors Pain Clinic office locations. Please call our Main Office at 330.629.2888 or toll free: 1.888.784.4312 if you have a question about a particular insurance.*



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Quick Guide



Frequently Asked Questions about Referral for Consultation to Doctors Pain Clinic

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The physicians and staff at Doctors Pain Clinic are continuously striving to improve service and exceed our referring physicians' expectations. This guide was created as a reference tool to help physician

offices know what to expect when making a referral for consultation to our pain management practice. These are the most frequently asked questions we regularly receive from referring physician offices.

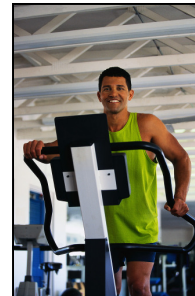
Q. When should a patient be referred to a pain management specialist? *Generally, patients are referred to our office when the patient has been in chronic pain for six consecutive months or when the patient has had no response or an inadequate response to conservative treatments or they are seeking non-surgical alternatives for their pain.*

Q. What type of medical conditions do you treat for pain? *We treat a variety of medical conditions that may cause pain including but not limited to: arthritis, bursitis, tendonitis, cancer, carpal/tarsal tunnel syndrome, herniated discs, low back pain, migraine headaches, post traumatic pain, Raynaud's syndrome, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (RSD), shingles, strains/sprains of neck, chest, back, failed back surgery syndrome.*

Q. Do you treat pain in children? *No, our practice is limited to patients ranging from late adolescence (18 years) through geriatrics.*

Q: Do patients need to have a physician referral?

Yes, call the our Main Office in Boardman to obtain a Referral for Consultation Form. Once we receive your Referral Form, our Referral Staff will contact your patient to schedule an appointment. Your office will receive confirmation of the date, time and name of the specialist the patient will be seen by.



Q. Why does your office require a consultation? *The specialists require a consultation with a newly referred patient to evaluate and meet each patient in person in order to create an individualized treatment plan that is best suited for that particular patient. This also enables our practice to comply with standards set by the Joint Commission and the American Academy of Pain Management.*

Q. What information should the referring office submit along with the completed form? *We request the last two progress notes related to the pain condition, a medication list, demographic form or face sheet, C-9 Form (for Worker's Comp), any recent diagnostic test result reports that the patient has completed (MRI, CT, X-Ray, EMG, etc.) as well as any notes from other physicians who treated the patient for pain.*

Q. Why do you request all information to be submitted in full before a consultation appointment is scheduled? *Obtaining all the requested information prior to scheduling an appointment for your patient helps expedite the referral process and allows our office to immediately create a treatment plan for a patient who has been in pain for some time.*

Q: Why does the Pain Clinic request a lot of background information on a patient for referral? *The information we request is vital and used by the specialists for review before and during the consultation appointment. Many times, by the time a patient is referred to our pain specialists, they have undergone a variety treatments or have seen other specialists to help manage their pain. The information our pain specialists request helps give a "snapshot" of what the patient has done for their pain.*

Q. Does the patient need to have an MRI completed prior to getting referred to our office? *It is certainly helpful if the patient has an MRI done before getting referred to us as it helps expedite the treatment process. However, an MRI is not required for referral. During the initial consultation appointment, the specialist will order any diagnostic testing if needed.*

Q. How long does it take for a patient to obtain an appointment for consultation? *It is our goal to ensure that appointments for your patients are scheduled in a timely manner. Most appointments to see one of our specialists are scheduled within 2 to 2.5 weeks. **Please note:** this time frame may increase or decrease depending on physician schedules and patient volume. **Our office schedules appointments in the order the request is received from our Referral Fax lines.***

Q. What if we have a patient who needs to obtain an appointment immediately? *We fully understand that in some cases you may have a patient(s) who cannot wait that amount of time and need an appointment scheduled as soon as possible. Please know that every effort will be made to accommodate an urgent appointment request for a **true medical emergency.** **Note:** The specialist ultimately decides if the request is a true emergency. If a specialist is unavailable, the patient may be directed to the emergency room.*

Q. Is it true that not every patient referred by our office will be accepted for treatment? Why? *Each referral is closely reviewed and decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. It is the pain specialist who ultimately decides whether or not to accept a patient into our pain management program. Examples of patients who may not be accepted into our program include but not limited to: patients with drug seeking behavior, patients needing detoxification or patients who our specialists determine may be surgical candidates.*

