Getting the Best Result from Opioid Medications for Pain:  
A Partnership Agreement

The greatest success in chronic pain and other controlled medications management comes when there is a partnership based on mutual respect between patient and health care provider.

As patient and health care provider, we respect each other's rights and accept our individual responsibilities.

The health care provider understands that it is important for patients with pain to know that the provider will:

- Listen and try to understand the patient's experience living with pain.
- Accept the patient's reports of pain and response to treatment.
- Thoroughly assess the patient's pain and explore all appropriate treatment options, including those suggested by the patient.
- Explain what is known and unknown about the causes of the patient's pain.
- Explain the meaning of test results or specialty visits/consultations, and what can be expected in the future.
- Explain the risks, benefits, side effects and limits of any proposed treatment.
- Respect the patient's right to participate in making pain management decisions, including the right to refuse some types of treatment.
- Make sure that the patient has access to acute care, even when the provider is not personally available.
- Not allow the patient to be treated disrespectfully by other providers or staff because of the patient's use of opioids for pain.

The patient understands that it is equally important for providers that their patients on opioid pain medications will:

- Take medication only at the dose and time/frequency prescribed.
- Fill prescriptions at one pharmacy of choice.
- Make no changes to the dose or how the medication is taken without first talking to the provider.
- Not ask for pain medications or controlled substances from other providers. The patients will also tell every provider all medications they are taking and notify their provider if controlled medications are prescribed by any other physicians.
- Arrange for refills only through the provider's clinic during regular office hours. 
  [UCHS OPIOID REFILL DAYS: 27381] Ask for refills three business days in advance and not ask for refills earlier than agreed upon.
- Protect prescriptions and medications from loss, theft or damage. A police report may be requested in cases of theft but does not guarantee prescription replacement. It is very important to keep medications away from children because of the risk of overdose.
- Keep medications only for their own use and not share them with others.
- Be willing to be involved in programs that can help improve social, physical, or psychological functioning as well as daily or work activities.
• Be willing to learn new ways to manage their pain by attempting step-by-step behavior and lifestyle changes in their daily life.
• Understand that medications may be decreased or stopped if there is worrisome alcohol or illegal/street drug use.
• Understand that under Colorado Law, it is a misdemeanor to drive under the influence of, or impaired by the use of controlled substances.
• Be willing to bring medicine bottles to the clinic when asked.
• Be willing to have random drug testing when asked. Testing may be done to ensure that medications are being used safely and results will be considered protected health information.
• Be willing to schedule and keep follow-up appointments at requested intervals.

We agree that the provider may stop prescribing the medication or the patient may decide to stop taking the medication if there is no improvement in pain or activity, there is loss of improvement from the medication, or there are significant side effects from the medication. Talk to your provider prior to making any changes.
  • Side effects may include rash, nausea, constipation, itching, drowsiness, confusion, increased feeling of pain, breathing problems, heart problems, hormone problems and even death.
  • Dependence and addiction may occur with the use of these medications

We both realize and have discussed that there can be limitations to opioid therapy. It may not be helpful or only partially helpful and is only one part of the treatment of chronic pain.

We understand that if this agreement is not followed, the patient may not be able to obtain controlled medications from UCHA primary care providers, may be referred for specialty evaluation or may not be able to be seen in UCHA primary care clinics (including discharge from this clinic).

We agree to work together in an active partnership, learning from both successes and failures, to find the most effective ways to control pain and improve functioning.

Patient: ___________________________ Date: __________

Provider: ___________________________ Date: __________