

Controlled Substance Policy

In an effort to address the overuse and abuse of opioids in Florida, the Florida Legislature approved and Governor Rick Scott subsequently signed House Bill 21. The intent of the legislation is to limit the number of narcotic prescriptions for acute pain and goes into effect on July 1, 2018. Unfortunately, the legislation approved will impact all prescriptions for controlled substances from our office, not only narcotics.

It is our goal to provide appropriate medical care while complying with this legislation. Both your pharmacist and physician offices face disciplinary action and a possible misdemeanor of the first degree if not in compliance. Beginning July 1, 2018 we are required to utilize the states prescription drug monitoring program (E-FORCSE) when creating a new electronic or written prescription for all controlled substances unless we are treating a patient for active cancer. Therefore, the following policy will be instituted:

- **An office visit will be required for all prescriptions to comply with the new requirement. Please contact the office at least 3 business days prior to end of any controlled substance prescription (No remaining refills) so we can assist you in promptly scheduling an office visit.**
- Prescriptions for acute pain with a schedule 2 narcotic are limited to 3 days.
- The state does allow for an exception on a limited basis for up to 7 days.
- We are not able to provide refills on schedule 2 medications used for chronic pain although we can provide a new prescription.
- If appropriate, we will maximize the number of refills on non-schedule 2 controlled substances (Sleeping Pills, Anxiety Pills, etc.)
- We will not be able to provide prescriptions for controlled substances outside the state of Florida.