

At Southwest Spine and Sports, we pride ourselves on providing comprehensive care and nonsurgical treatment options for musculoskeletal conditions. Our goal is to return patients to an optimal level of function and mobility necessary for a healthy lifestyle. Medication therapies are often part of the patient's treatment plan and are prescribed based on the patient's condition including risk and benefits of medication utilized.

As you know, there is an opioid medication epidemic plaguing both the state of Arizona and the nation. In response to this healthcare crisis, governmental agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Center's for Medicare and Medicaid Services, along with the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy have established new guidelines for prescribing opioid medications. These guidelines define parameters for when opioid medications can be prescribed, how much opioid medications can be prescribed and for how long these medications can be prescribed.

Southwest Spine and Sports will continue to focus on best practices including following all regulations for prescribing and monitoring patients receiving opioid medications. This may result in some changes in your current or anticipated treatment plan. The well-being and safety of patients is at the core of our practice and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

For further information on these guidelines see below:

Arizona State Board of Pharmacy – 2018 Arizona Opioid Epidemic Act
https://pharmacy.az.gov

Arizona Department of Health Services – Opioid Epidemic
https://AZDHS.gov/opioid-prevention

Centers of Disease Control and Prevention – Checklist for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain
https://cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guidelines

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – CMS Roadmap for Fighting the Opioid Crisis
https://CMS.gov

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