

Venice Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

Pain Medication Policy

We at Venice Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery advocate for our patients as strongly and in as many ways as possible. We know that wounds from surgery can be painful.

The majority of bariatric surgery patients will use narcotic pain medications post operatively, for a very limited time. Those medications may include but are not limited to: Percocet, Oxycodone, Dilaudid tablets, Vicodin, Codeine and Ultram.

It is our policy to limit post-operative pain medication to those prescribed at the time of discharge. Florida State Law prohibits prescribing narcotic pain medication over the phone. Our practice is not intended to manage a patient's pain on a long-term basis, and we refer patients in need of long-term pain management or pain management needed that does not arise from our procedure to a pain management specialist. **THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.**

Furthermore, you should be aware of Florida's Prescription Monitoring Program that tracks pain medication prescriptions written by physicians AND prescriptions filled. Florida implemented this program as part of its efforts to impact prescription pain medication abuse, and is for your protection. Venice Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery is committed to compliance with these requirements.

In the event that a patient has had issues with severe pain previously associated with medical care, we recommend evaluation by a pain specialist **PRIOR** to any planned procedure. We would be happy to refer you to a local specialist physician should you be interested in this option. For those patients who are already under the care of a pain specialist, we recommend that you contact them prior to surgery to inform them of the planned procedure. We welcome recommendations from your specialist for *in hospital* care and will defer to your specialist on your best method of pain control post operatively. We do request that they send us instructions for your specific care, and that they prescribe your medications after discharge to avoid confusion.

Sincerely,

The Team at Venice Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

Patient Signature and Date