

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES POLICY

Controlled substances include narcotic medications for pain, sedatives and stimulants. These medications are controlled by the federal and state governments as they have the potential for abuse. Please be aware that we do not automatically continue new patients on these prescriptions. We also do not specialize in pain management or addiction medicine. If you are becoming a patient with the expectation that prolonged use of these medications is the best solution to your medical problems, Live Oak Medicine may not be right for you.

Chronic pain, anxiety and insomnia affect many patients, but management of these conditions typically does not require long-term use of controlled substances. We make every effort to refer patients who are narcotic dependent due to chronic pain to a pain specialist. It is our goal to coordinate this care to decrease the impact of chronic pain in your life.

We make every effort to guard patients against the complications of chronic narcotic use, including controlled substance contracts, random urine drug screens and pill counts. We will obtain previous medical records and imaging reports directly from previous providers, we will also perform and request pharmacy surveys as necessary to protect patients and the public. It goes without saying that sharing controlled with another person is illegal and will result in discharge from the practice. These same principles will guide our treatment of chronic anxiety and stimulant use.

Chronic anxiety and insomnia, like chronic pain, can be treated with addictive sedative medications (anxiolytics/benzodiazepines). As with narcotics, these drugs carry significant risks when used chronically. Sedatives are addictive and dangerous in withdrawal, and are not first-line recommendations for controlling anxiety. Sedatives interact with many other drugs and are a frequent cause of death when combined inappropriately with narcotics and alcohol. They can decrease driving abilities and impair reflexes and judgment as well as put you at risk of falls, among other concerns.

Should sedative use become an issue in your care, you may be asked to see a psychiatrist, try an alternative medication or see a therapist. Violation of controlled substance contracts and policies will result in immediate discharge from the practice.