

New Patients – Please read:

Opioid and Narcotic Analgesic (Painkiller) Prescriptions

The treatment of chronic pain may involve opioid medicine, also called narcotic analgesics (painkillers). These medications can often be effective in treating pain, but may have significant side effects and a high potential for abuse. Most of these medications are controlled substances that are highly regulated by state and federal laws.

Although Dr. Friedman believes that this type of medication can be useful for some patients suffering from severe chronic pain, the assessment as to whether a particular patient is a candidate for this type of treatment usually takes several visits and/or involves obtaining extensive outside information. The decision as to whether or not to use this type of medication for a chronic condition is usually not made on the first visit to this office.

If you are being evaluated as a new patient for pain management and feel you will experience problems if you run out of a controlled substance medication, you need to consult the physician who is currently prescribing it. Dr. Friedman will not prescribe this type of controlled substance medication merely because another physician has done so. New patients should **not** come to their first visit expecting a controlled substance prescription “refill.”

All patients being considered for controlled substance prescriptions will undergo urine drug tests and review of prescriptions from outside sources. We ask you to be completely frank with the doctor about previous prescriptions, other medical problems, and all medication, drug and alcohol use. Such open communication enables us to consider all appropriate options for your treatment.

Thank you,

Robert J. Friedman, M.D. and staff
Headache and Pain Center of Palm Beach