

# New Patient Information

## **About Us**

The Center for Interventional Pain Medicine is comprised of physicians who specialize in the treatment of pain through the use of interventional procedures such as steroid injections, nerve blocks, implantable devices, and non-opioid containing pain medications. We specialize in treating all types of pain including but not limited to mechanical back and neck pain, myofascial (muscle) pain, radiculopathy, spinal stenosis, failed back syndrome, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, and cancer pain.

## **Initial Visit**

Please bring all your current medications and reports from any diagnostic tests such as x-rays or MRIs. Upon your initial visit, you will receive a thorough evaluation comprised of a consult with one of our pain physicians. A thorough medical history and physical examination will be performed. Any diagnostic tests you have already undergone will be reviewed. Depending on the assessment of your condition, additional diagnostic tests may need to be ordered. If your condition warrants an interventional procedure, it will be explained to you in detail and all questions will be answered.

## **Narcotic Policy**

Narcotics are medications containing substances that are under strict control by the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Examples include morphine, codeine, oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet), hydrocodone (Vicodin), and meperidine (Demerol) to name just a few. With few exceptions, our philosophy is that narcotic medications are the option of last resort.

If you are a patient already taking narcotic pain medications, we will evaluate your condition for the necessity of continuing such medications. We are in no way obligated to prescribe these medications for conditions we feel are inappropriate. Likewise, we are in no way obligated to continue prescribing for physicians who no longer wish to prescribe such medications. Each patient will be evaluated on a case by case basis but in general, no patient will receive narcotic medications on their first visit. If narcotic medications are indicated, the patient must agree to adhere by the policies stated in our opioid contract and submit to a urine or blood drug screen before any such medications will be prescribed.