

## Clearwater Pain Management Associates

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Dear Patients,

The Florida Department of Medicine has placed into effect laws which govern pain management clinics. Each county has also instituted separate legislation regulating existing pain clinics. These efforts are based on the proliferation of pain clinic 'pill mills' which have created an epidemic of controlled substance abuse in our state and local communities.

Nonetheless, these laws have effected how legitimate pain management practices must conduct their businesses. As a result of these laws, **all patients** who are receiving a Class II or Class III prescription, *must be seen by a physician for an evaluation prior to receiving a refill*. That is, patients can no longer pick up prescriptions at the window, receive more than a month's prescription, or have prescriptions called into the pharmacy. Please be proactive in notifying our office to schedule your monthly office visits. As per past policy, we will not refill prescriptions overnight, on weekends, or on an urgent basis because you did not foresee a need earlier.

In addition, all patients receiving prescriptions are required to submit to drug screening at least twice a year, or more frequently at the physician's discretion. Presence of any illicit substances, **including marijuana**, will require our practice to terminate your prescriptions and refer you to a drug rehabilitation facility.

These most recent laws went into effect October 1, 2010. There very likely will be additional rules and regulations from the state and county which may effect the practice of pain management.

Sincerely,

Edward Chen, MD

Demetrios Kaiafas, MD

Anil Ladhani, MD

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