

Dr. Trahan's Drug Policy: Please Read Carefully

Recently there have been new guidelines established for providers who prescribe opioids, also known as narcotics. The guidelines state that any physician other than a pain management physician may not prescribe opioids (narcotics) for any period greater than 90 days within a year. Any pain requiring opioids for a period greater than 90 days is considered chronic pain and must be treated by a pain management physician. This is being regulated by the centers for disease control and prevention (CDC) and the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME).

The CDC developed the new guideline for prescribing opioids (narcotics) for chronic pain to help providers make informed prescribing decisions and improve patient care for those who suffer from chronic pain in outpatient settings. The guideline is not intended for patients who are in active cancer treatment, palliative care, or end-of-life care.

As a neurosurgeon Dr. Trahan provides both conservative and surgical treatments for a number of spine and brain diagnoses. Depending on your needs and medical issues, you may or may not require a prescription for opioids (narcotics) as part of your treatment. In accordance with the new guidelines, we are making all of our patients aware that if opioids (narcotics) are required as part of your treatment, we will not be able to prescribe these past 90 days of use. We will begin a weaning process over the 90 day period. If you do require opioids (narcotics) for more than the allowable 90 days, you will need to seek treatment from a pain management doctor. We can submit a referral to your choice of physician.

These guidelines are being strictly enforced by the CDC and LSBME. This information can be verified on the website <http://www.lsbme.la.gov> under subchapter 8. Medications used in the treatment of non-cancer-related chronic or intractable pain.

Dr. Trahan and staff are very aware of the danger of opioids (narcotics) if not used properly. We will be following the new guidelines in an effort to avoid these dangers. **By signing below, you are stating that you understand the guidelines and Dr. Trahan's drug policy.**

Signature

Date

Print Name