

Fellow
American Association of
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

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CONSENT FOR TREATMENT WITH CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- 1. Controlled substances. All controlled substances are prescribed to treat a variety of conditions. Controlled substances are drugs or chemical substances whose possession and use are regulated under the Controlled Substances Act. These drugs include, but are not limited to sleep agents, narcotics, narcotic analgesics, anxiety, male hormone replacements and drugs for Attention Deficit Disorder. The law requires that patients are informed of the risks, benefits and alternatives of taking certain controlled substances.
- 2. Adverse Effects. As with any medication, there are risks and adverse effects associated with the use of these controlled substances. Common adverse effects include, but are not limited to, sedation or sleepiness, nausea, vomiting, constipation, pruritus ("itching"), confusion, respiratory depression, and urinary retention. Some of these effects may make it unsafe for you to drive a vehicle, operate heavy machinery, perform other tasks that require concentration or be unsafe to use while pregnant. Excessive use of these controlled substances can lead to profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and/or death.
- 3. Physical Dependence, Tolerance and Addiction. Although uncommon when used for the treatment of acute pain, these controlled substances can cause physical dependence, tolerance, and/or addiction when used for a prolonged period to treat chronic pain. Maintenance therapy with these controlled substances can cause physical dependence. This means that if these medications are abruptly stopped or decreased significantly over a short period of time, a patient may experience withdrawal symptoms such as nervousness, irritability, insomnia, sweating, abdominal cramping, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Tolerance occurs when the effects of these controlled substances are decreased over a period of prolonged use making it necessary to increase the dosage. Physical dependence and tolerance are different than addiction. Addiction is a complex disease characterized by compulsive craving or seeking and use of a substance despite its extreme negative effects on a person. The risk of addiction may be increased in a patient with a history of alcoholism or other addiction.