



ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATES
OF CENTRAL TEXAS



As of January 2014, Orthopaedic Associates of Central Texas/Austin Bone & Joint Clinic has elected to begin a prescription medication compliance program. The decision to do this was based on the legal mandate to protect the patient, the physician, and the community from drug diversion (the sale of prescription drugs).

The staff of Orthopaedic Associates of Central Texas, P.A. is committed to providing effective treatment to patients’ suffering from acute/post-operative pain and chronic pain. The treatment of pain may include the use of opioid analgesics or other narcotic pain medications. Due to the epidemic of American s abusing prescription pain medication, as well as other narcotic drugs and in order to monitor and account for the patient’s compliance in taking their medication as prescribed.

Through urine drug testing, one national study found that many pain patients might not be taking their medication as prescribed. The study also found the following about the monitored patients:

- 39% did not have the prescribed opioid present.
- 29% had non-prescribed opioid medication present.
- 11% had illicit drugs detected in their urine.
- The 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and health reports a steady increase in the number of American abusing prescription medications
- Rising rates of prescription drug abuse and emergency room admissions related to prescription drug abuse, as well as an increase in the theft and illegal resale of prescription drugs, indicate that drug division is a growing problem nation wide. The main source of drug diversion is unlikely the prescriber as was once assumed, but rather from theft by family, friends and workers in the home or from the sharing and selling of medication though often with good intentions.

The following is from the **DEA** website
<http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/brochures/drugabuser.htm>

The abuse of prescription drugs—especially controlled substances—is a serious social and health problem in the United States today. As a healthcare professional, you share responsibility for solving the prescription drug abuse and diversion problem.

- You have a legal and ethical responsibility to uphold the law and to help protect society from drug abuse.
- You have a professional responsibility to prescribe controlled substances appropriately, guarding against abuse while ensuring that your patients have medication available when they need it. You have a personal responsibility to protect your practice from becoming an easy target for drug diversion. You must become aware of the potential situations where drug diversion can occur and safe-guards that can be enacted to prevent this diversion.

WE ARE NOT ABLE TO REPORT RESULTS OF THESE SCREENS TO ANYONE THAT YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN US PERMISSION TO DO SO (INCLUDING LEGAL AUTHORITES, FAMILY, ECT.)

The sole purpose of this protocol/testing procedures is to provide a guide for your physician to best treat your pain. The results are not used for any other purpose and will only be maintained as part of your medical record.

Please initial in acceptance of the following points:

_____ I understand that OACT/ABJ has instituted a prescription drug monitoring program Designed to protect the patient, the community and the physician in the instance in which a narcotic pain medication is or will be prescribed

_____ I understand that in certain situation I may be tested in order to receive prescription narcotic medication.

_____ I understand that results of my screening are utilized only to determine the ability of the physician to prescribe dangerous narcotics medication and may not be disclosed to anyone I have not provided authorization to receive that information.

_____ I understand that this information is part of my medical records.

_____ I understand that if I refuse to participate in the prescription screening program that the physician may not prescribe narcotic pain medication but prescription alternatives.

Patient Name

Signature

Date