Sample Emergency Department Aftercare Instructions

OPPIOID PAIN MEDICINE

You have been prescribed an opioid for pain relief. These drugs are either combined with acetaminophen (Tylenol® #3, Percocet®, Vicodin®) or used on their own. Opioids act on the central nervous system to reduce pain.

**THESE MEDICATIONS CAN SLOW OR STOP YOUR BREATHING, PARTICULARLY IF TAKEN IN LARGER AMOUNTS OR FOR LONGER THAN PRESCRIBED. DO NOT EXCEED THE PRESCRIBED DOSE.**

Misuse of these medications can cause addiction, overdose, or death, especially if used in children or by a person taking this medication without a prescription. Avoid drinking alcohol, driving a car, or operating dangerous equipment when using one of these medications.

**COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:**

Nausea, vomiting, heartburn, constipation, dizziness, drowsiness, and/or mood changes. Take your medicine with meals or a full glass of water to help lessen stomach irritation.

Opioids impair your mental alertness and physical abilities.

**SPECIAL NOTE(S)**

- This medicine may impair your ability to drive a car or operate dangerous equipment. Avoid these activities while taking this medication.

- Please keep all medicine out of the reach of children, adolescents, and any individuals who may be at risk for taking your personal medications without your consent.

- If you were prescribed an opioid medication that contains acetaminophen, you should not take additional medications containing acetaminophen (Tylenol®). Consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

Stop taking your medicine and return to the emergency department or contact your doctor should any of the following occur:

- Symptoms of an allergic reaction (itching, rash, hives, wheezing, and/or breathing difficulty).

  Bothersome side effects.