

Comprehensive Pain Management Institute

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Dear Colleague,

It will be an honor to help you take care of the chronic pain conditions that afflict your patients. In order to make your practice easier, and to lessen the frustration that some patients experience with chronic pain conditions, allow me to help guide your referrals to the most appropriate specialists by the following few points. Kind thanks in advance.

Specific Considerations for Referral to Pain Management:

Comprehensive Pain Management Institute is primarily oriented towards interventional approaches to amelioration of pain. These include procedures such as nerve blocks, injections, implantable devices, and minimally invasive spine interventions. Diagnoses which are likely to benefit from these procedures include radicular pain, discogenic pain, facet arthropathy, mechanical back pain, discogenic pain, post-herpetic neuralgia, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, pain due to nerve injury, neuropathies, and cancer pain.

Our focus is on making the pain less a predominant factor of the life of the patients, rather than curing disease. With this in mind, please also ensure that the patient is referred appropriately to specialists who are able to best cure the cause of pain.

Since effectiveness of procedural treatment for chronic pain decreases with the duration of the disease, please refer early in order that your patients have the best chance for success. Your patient will have the best chance for relief if the condition is less than 3 years in duration. However, any new acute exacerbation has a high likelihood of benefit from our services.

We will evaluate other chronic pain problems and make recommendations regarding other treatments, including pharmacologic, psychologic, physical therapy, and surgery as appropriate. If the referring physician requests, we will occasionally initiate pharmacological management. As soon as the therapy is stabilized, we will return the writing of all the prescriptions to the referring physician.

We are not an Opiate Clinic. As such, if you will not feel comfortable resuming the prescription-managing role after stabilization of therapy, this might not be the most appropriate office to refer the particular patient to. Patients with addictive disorders are not appropriate for pain management services, where a high degree of trust between the physician and patient is necessary.

Patients with diagnoses such as fibromyalgia, polyarthralgias, polymyositis, chronic headaches, pain due to stroke, and diffuse neurologic disease are more effectively managed by other specialties.

Recommendations for a Successful Referral:

In order to make the visit to our facility most efficient for your patients, please consider the following points:

Please make sure that the patient has appropriate referral forms processed. In addition to a referral and prior authorization for the visit to our office, often we will need to refer the patient to a clinical psychologist. We will notify you as this becomes necessary.

All patients must have a primary care provider in the local area. This is to ensure co-ordination of care and thus an optimal outcome for the patient.

Please provide us with demographic data and copies of the insurance cards (front and back)

Please provide us with patient's medical history, active problem list, current medication list, etc. With regard to the patient's pain condition, please provide us with a summary of the patients prior treatment – and how effective it was, and prior workup – including laboratories, imaging, and EMG/NCV.