

LETTER FOR EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN

After reviewing the information I have available to me, I have noticed some concerning behavior. In the past ___ months you have filled _____. You have visited our emergency room multiple times for pain related complaints. I have also noticed some concerning behaviors including a focus on opiates/opioid medications. As your emergency physician, these actions have led me to believe that you may be addicted to your pain medication or substance like a pain medication.

Most patients who are addicted do not want to continue their addiction but seek pain medication to prevent withdrawal. Most patients are ashamed of their addiction but do not know how to reach out for help. Most patients dislike spending their time worrying about how they will get enough pain medication to make them feel normal again.

I want to help you with this but continuing this pain medication is not the answer. Don't stop reading now! I will help you get an appointment with _____ clinic. In the interim, if you sign our ER contract, I will provide you with pain medication for today and will help you sign up for our Acute Addiction Care team. They will initiate and continue treatment until you are able to connect with a drug treatment program.

Rehab can be part of your recovery but should not be used as your only treatment. Addiction is a serious disease and must be treated as such. As you may already know, the three main medications to treat addiction are Buprenorphine, Methadone and Naltrexone. The first two (Buprenorphine and Methadone) will help ease the effects of withdrawal. Naltrexone is a medication used to prevent relapse but is not used to treat withdrawal. Your addiction medicine doctor can help you find the right medication and treatment. I know you are afraid of the next step. Please let us help you get the help you need.