
Patient Q&A: Medical Commission Suspends License of Seattle Pain Center Medical Director

Overview

- The Washington State Medical Commission is taking action against Frank Li, MD for substandard care.
- This action impacts Seattle Pain Centers' eight clinics across Washington (Everett, Seattle, Renton, Tacoma, Poulsbo, Olympia, Vancouver, and Spokane) and potentially 25,000 patients.
- The Medical Commission is working with the Department of Health, the Health Care Authority, Office of the Insurance Commissioner and the represented professional associations and regulators to coordinate resources and minimize gaps in care for affected patients.

What does this mean?

- If you are a patient at the Seattle Pain Center, your insurance carrier may no longer pay for visits to these clinics. You should contact your primary care practitioner and your insurance carrier as soon as possible to determine a plan for ongoing treatment.
- If you take a high dose of daily opioid medication and stop taking it suddenly, you may experience symptoms of withdrawal such as restlessness, nausea, diarrhea, muscle pain, or insomnia. Symptoms of withdrawal (<http://goo.gl/dXjND2>) can be unpleasant, but will not cause damage to your body. Symptoms can be milder if you are able to taper down your medication over time. Talk to your health care provider about this possibility before you run out of medication.
- If you have been taking a benzodiazepine (Xanax, Valium, Ativan, etc.) for a long time and stop suddenly, you may experience symptoms of withdrawal such as: severe anxiety, restlessness, and other serious side effects (<http://goo.gl/MSLZ4W>). Talk with your primary health care provider about the signs of benzodiazepine withdrawal and strategies to reduce your dosage and manage withdrawal symptoms.

How can I find a new practitioner?

- To avoid a disruption in care, contact your primary care practitioner and/or your health insurance plan for reassignment or referral.

What if I cannot find a new practitioner before I need a prescription refill?

- If you need immediate medical support, go to an urgent care clinic or the ER of your local hospital.

Can I still refill my current prescription?

- If you have an unfilled prescription from Seattle Pain Center practitioners, it may be valid. Talk to your pharmacist to confirm. If your pharmacist has questions, please refer them to the Pharmacy Commission: Phone: 360-236-4999 Fax: 360-236-2260.

Could I be addicted to my medications?

- Some people who take chronic narcotic medications can develop an addiction to them. Being addicted to something means you lose your ability to control how much you take. This can lead to problems with your job, health, relationships and ability to feel well.
- If you think you may have a problem controlling your use of narcotic medications, or taking too much, contact your primary care provider as there are new medications that can help treat narcotic addiction or the Washington Recovery Helpline at 1-866-789-1511.

[\(http://www.warecoveryhelpline.org/\)](http://www.warecoveryhelpline.org/)

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