

# **Chronic Opiate Therapy Declaration to All New Placer Private Physician Patients**

Thank you for considering Placer Private Physicians for your new primary care home. We take chronic pain seriously and understand how much it can adversely affect a person's life. That is why we recommend a multi-dimensional approach to chronic pain including medications, exercise, nutrition, and stress reduction.

Opiate therapy can be a crucial component to treating chronic pain. However, as you are probably aware, there has been a trend of overprescribing and abuse of these powerful medications. There is currently an opiate epidemic in the US with countless overdose victims and drug dependence. These medications need to be cautiously prescribed and monitored. And in many cases, the current dosage needs to be decreased or discontinued all together.

In light of this information, the Placer Private Physicians will not take on the prescribing of chronic opiate medication for new patients. We are not saying that we are refusing to work with you to help alleviate your pain and improve your daily function. However, you will need to have an established pain specialist monitor and prescribe your opiate medications. Under the right circumstances, we may agree to refill a short supply until you are able to establish with a local pain specialist.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to serving as your primary care physicians. If you have questions about our policy or your specific case, please notify our staff and we will arrange a physician review.

Sincerely,

Brön Hedman, MD  
President - Placer Private Physicians

Rich Licthi, MD  
Vice President - Placer Private Physicians