

## Cancer Pain

At Bearden Healthcare Associates, PC we understand pain. Pain generates from a wide variety of sources. While many of our patients suffer pain caused by accidents, injuries, degenerative or arthritic conditions, quite a number have pain related to cancer. We excel at caring for cancer pain patients. Improving pain relief, function and quality of life are our goals.

Cancer pain is different. Patients who have had cancer in the past or are actively being treated may have different needs than the average chronic pain patient. An understanding of these unique needs is key. Our staff will address care plans in a way which deals with the patient's individual needs. Our schedule is set up to accommodate seeing new patients in a timely manner, often we can see a new patient within a day or two especially if we have a referral from an oncologist or other physician assisting in a cancer patient's care. We realize a patient's pain may change unexpectedly so we strive to keep appointment slots available to work in patients as needed.

Our providers have taken advanced medical education related to the prescription of medications for cancer pain. Many hours have been devoted specifically to treating moderate to severe cancer pain. Advanced training through the FDA's required program titled, Transmucosal Immediate Release Fentanyl (TIRF) Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) has been done to ensure appropriate use of this category of medication. Medicines for the treatment of cancer pain will probably be different than those for mild to moderate pain. Around the clock medicine may be needed. At times, we may utilize rapid-onset medications to combat "breakthrough pain" and provide greater relief.

Over the past year Bearden Healthcare Associates, PC has developed a program uniquely setting our clinic apart from others when it comes to cancer pain management. Our program, which uses a variety of medications including but not limited to Fentanyl, has been evaluated by staff of the prestigious Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center and found to be robust. So much so, Cleveland Clinic's Regional Operations Manager, Connie Ferraro RN, BSN OCN has suggested aspects of our program may be incorporated into their facilities plan of care for cancer pain treatment.

Our program is set apart by our administration of the patient's initial dose in the office under observation of our medical staff. This allows for prompt feedback on the effectiveness of the medication. We are also watchful for adverse reactions as well. We are equipped to handle those reactions. Another important consideration we take is prescribing a Naloxone Rescue Device to certain patients based on their risk evaluation.

If you are a doctor's office wishing to refer a patient, contact our New Patient Coordinator directly at 865-584-3565 extension 222. You may also print off the New Patient Referral Form, fill it out and fax to 865-584-2956. The link for the form is listed below. We will contact the patient and let you know if/when the patient will be scheduled.

If you are a patient needing a new patient appointment, please call 865-584-3565 and choose OPTION 7. Please leave the requested information. You may also call the New Patient Coordinator at 865-584-3565 extension 222.

**NEW PATIENT REFERRAL FORM link:**

Helpful links:

American Cancer Society: <http://www.cancer.org/index>

World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/cancer/>

WebMD Fentanyl: [www.webmd.com/pain-management/fentanyl](http://www.webmd.com/pain-management/fentanyl)