

Date:

Dear Valued Patient,  
  
XYZ Clinic is pleased to share news that we are working together with [organization name] to help support safer prescribing of opioid pain medicines under the new [Washington State House Bill 1427 or other impetus]. We now know that prescription opioid pain killers (examples are hydrocodone, oxycodone, methadone) are more dangerous than we previously thought. They often do not work for long-term pain, and can make pain worse rather than better. Also, long term use of these opioid medicines increases the risk of drug overdose and death, even for patients who have been using them for a long time.

To best meet our patients’ health care needs and protect their safety, we have new clinic policies for prescribing opioid pain killers. As a result, all of our patients who are on these medicines long term for their pain will receive a review of their pain management plan at an upcoming clinic appointment. This review will make sure our patients have the safest and most effective treatment plan for their pain and their health overall, while taking into consideration pain medicine risks and benefits. This will help our clinic lower the risks related to opioid pain medicine use and meet the new guidelines from [Washington state in House Bill 1427 or other impetus].

We are committed to caring for all of our patients’ on-going health care needs, and to providing the highest quality care. Thank you for trusting us with your care and for working with us as we put our new policies into place. If you are taking opioid pain medicines and you don’t already have an appointment coming up, please contact your provider’s office to make an appointment in the near future.

Sincerely,

XYZ Clinic