

Informed Consent Benzo's

Benzodiazepines are controlled medications that are dangerous and can cause dependency, addiction or death. I will monitor you for the development of dependency or addiction.

Potential side effects and adverse effects of Benzodiazepines Include:

•Oversedation • Drug interactions • Memory impairment • Paradoxical stimulant effects
• Depression, emotional blunting • Adverse effects in the elderly • Adverse effects in pregnancy • Tolerance • Dependence • Therapeutic dose dependence • Prescribed high dose dependence • Recreational benzodiazepine abuse, difficulty breathing

If you have any of these side effects you must notify me immediately.

Difficulty Breathing: If you have any difficulty breathing you must go to the emergency room immediately.

Use as Directed: Do not overtake your medication. If you do you will run out. **If you run out, you will go into withdrawal.** Remember, we do not renew prescriptions early. **If you go into withdrawal, go immediately to the emergency room.**

Discontinuation: The discontinuation of this medication can cause withdrawal. Therefore you should never stop this medicine suddenly. **If you go into withdrawal, go immediately to the emergency room.**

Additional Information: When you receive your medication from the pharmacy, you will be given a full detailed description of the medication (**Package Insert or PI**) Do not show this out. **You are responsible for reading this information so that you understand all the risks of this medication. This includes the "Black Box Warnings".**

Withdrawal: Withdrawal symptoms can begin in 1-2 days and usually last 2-3 weeks. The feeling of wanting or needing this medication can last several months. I will help you manage these symptoms. We will accomplish this by slowly reducing your use of this medication only 5-10% per month in a non-emergency situation. this may take up to one year.

If you have to discontinue this medication more rapidly, we will discontinue it and provide you with medications to treat the withdrawal symptoms so as to keep you as comfortable as possible.

It is particularly dangerous to take benzodiazepines with opioids. We will not prescribe these medications in combination for your safety. Additionally, it is particularly dangerous to take benzodiazepines and alcohol. We will not prescribe benzodiazepines if we find you are drinking alcohol at the same time.

Patient : _____

Date: _____