

Department of Justice & Consumer Services

Office of Consumer Protection

631 Chestnut St.

Clearwater, FL 33756

Telephone: (727) 464-6200 FAX: (727) 464-6129

Website: www.pinellascounty.org/consumer

Email: Consumer@pinellascounty.org



November 30, 2011

Dear Physician or Pain Management Professional,

In response to the continued concerns over prescription drug overdose deaths, the increase in newborns addicted to prescription drugs, and the high rate of prescription narcotics diversion, the Board of County Commissioners voted on November 8, 2011 to amend Pinellas County's Ordinance governing Pain Management Clinics.

Who Must Register:

Existing Pain Management Clinics registered with Pinellas County under the moratorium must renew their registration with the County. While maintaining provisions previously specific to Pain Clinics, the ordinance also extends registration requirements to include **ANY** health care facility with a high-prescribing physician within the County. Please find the attached Health Care Facility and Pain Management Clinic Registration Application. This application is for any healthcare facility in which the physician may prescribe 34 or more prescriptions, on any single day, for class II and Class III narcotics.

NOTE: All health care facilities, regardless of primary services offered, State pain clinic status or exemptions, or physician specialty, are included in this registration if they may meet the 34 script criteria. A copy of the ordinance can be found online at <http://www.pinellascounty.org/consumer>.

Several additional key revisions include, but are not limited to:

- Moratorium extension until sixty (60) days after the 2012 State of Florida Legislative Session.
- Patient education.
- Requirements to check the statewide Prescription Drug database.

If you meet the registration criteria, you must return your application no later than 4:00 PM on December 30, 2011 in order to avoid being in violation of the ordinance and moratorium.

Return the completed application, with required attachments, to:

Pinellas County Department of Justice and Consumer Services
Attention: Investigator Melton
631 Chestnut Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

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The owner must complete the application and each doctor or Medical Director must complete their own affidavit of Pain Clinic Physician. Individual affidavits MUST be notarized and included with the application. Also, please make sure that your completed application is accurate and notarized. ALL INFORMATION WILL BE VERIFIED.

Those exempt from registration include: Any clinic licensed by the state health department as a facility pursuant to F.S. Ch. 395; any clinic, facility, or office in which the majority of the patients primarily receive surgical services; any clinic owned by a publicly held corporation whose shares are traded on a national exchange or on the over-the-counter market and whose total assets at the end of the corporation's most recent fiscal quarter exceeded \$50,000,000.00; a clinic owned by a corporate entity exempt from federal taxation under 26 U.S.C. s. 501(c)(3); any clinic, facility, or office in which the majority of the patients receive treatment for terminal illness including Hospice; and any clinic, facility, or office in which the majority of the patients receive cancer treatment.

For additional information, please visit our website at: www.pinellascounty.org/consumer or call us at (727) 464-6200.

Regards,

Paul Melton

Investigator

Pinellas County Justice & Consumer Services

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jmelton@pinellascounty.org