

When to Consider Making a Referral to a Pain Specialist

Consider sending your patients for a consultation with a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) pain specialist if:

1. You hear; “Doc, it hurts and it just doesn’t seem to be getting any better.”
Chronic pain especially involving the neck or back often has no objective evidence of pathology (i.e. X-Ray, CT, and/or MRI show only mild degenerative changes or are even negative) and normal exam findings. This is frustrating for physician and patient alike.
2. Your “inner voice” says one or more of the following as you formulate your treatment plan:
 - “Is this pain real?”
 - “I know that state and federal authorities are closely tracking the prescribing of certain medications such as OxyContin and Duragesic patches.”
 - “My office is not set up to monitor the complex behaviors oftentimes associated with chronic pain patients.”
 - “Pain patients consume a lot of my staff’s time and energy and I’m concerned about handling often ‘urgent’ requests for narcotic refills.”
 - “Many NSAID’S have side-effects and often do not satisfy the patient’s complaints.”
 - “I’m concerned about prescribing long-acting narcotics.”
 - “What about pain related depression?”
 - “I don’t have time to complete the complicated process for disability evaluations.”
3. You need to respond to either the patient’s or a third party request for a second opinion.

Many subspecialists typically only treat certain specific types of pain:

Neuropathic Pain – Neurology

Back and Neck – Orthopedics, Neurosurgery

Joint and Tendonitis – Rheumatology

Epidural and Nerve Blocks – Anesthesiology

The physicians of Rehabilitation Physicians of Georgia, P.C. treat it ALL including:

- Neck and Back Pain

- Degenerative Disc
- Joint Related Pain
- Fibromyalgia & Myofascial, RSD or Complex Regional Pain Syndrome
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and Repetitive Motion Injury
- Osteoarthritis, Tendonitis & Soft Tissue Inflammation
- Neuropathic Pain & Peripheral Nerve Injury
- Post CVA
- Post Surgical Pain and Failed Back Syndrome
- Workers Comp & Work Related
- Motor Vehicle Accident and Insurance Company Medical Narratives
- Multiple Sclerosis & Related Spasticity
- Electrodiagnostic Testing
- ESI and Nerve Blocks
- Disability Ratings (MMI & PPD)

SUMMARY:

When you have a patient that has any type of musculoskeletal or joint pain, whether new or old, degenerative or not, emotional or depressed, strain or sprain, post surgical or not, ask us. We feel that our experience and expertise provides patients with the best solutions for true pain relief, increased function and restoration of day to day activities.

We recognize that patients in pain simply can't wait very long for relief and RPG's physicians and staff are ready to accept your referrals immediately. With multiple Metro-Atlanta locations, same day appointments often available, test results to the referring physician in 24 hours, acceptance of Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid & Advantage Plans, and one number to call we make it easy and convenient for you, your staff and especially your patients.