



Emergency Center
413 Lilly Road NE
Olympia, WA 98506
360-

Sample Patient Notification Letter

Date:

Dear

The *main goal* of Providence St. Peter Hospital is to provide the best possible medical care.

Emergency departments are designed to provide treatment of *emergent* medical conditions. Emergency departments are not designed to provide sporadic care for chronic illnesses.

Every patient that comes to Providence St. Peter Hospital's Emergency Center will be fully evaluated and treated – as they always have been.

Patients that do not have emergent conditions will be referred to their primary care provider for ongoing treatment of their non-life threatening medical problems, pain and medication refills.

Emergency Center staff understands that *pain relief is important* when someone is hurting. However, managing pain is often difficult. Inappropriate pain management may lead to serious harm and even death. So, for your safety, our Emergency Center will not:

- Give pain medication for sudden inexplicable increases in chronic pain.
- Refill lost or stolen pain medications.
- Prescribe missed methadone doses.
- Prescribe long-acting pain medications such as OxyContin, MS Contin, or Fentanyl patches.
- Prescribe pain medication if you already receive that medication from another doctor or emergency department.

The best medical care is to have one provider manage chronic medical conditions, pain and medication needs. This cannot be done with sporadic visits to multiple clinics or emergency departments.

If you do not have a primary care provider, *CHOICE Regional Health Network* can assist you in finding one. A *CHOICE* representative can be reached at 360-493-4550

Sincerely,

Joe Pellicer, MD
Emergency Center Medical Director