

For Immediate Release

PAIN MANAGEMENT PHYSICIAN LEADS BATTLE AGAINST PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AND “DOCTOR SHOPPING” ON FLORIDA’S WEST COAST

Bradenton, FL (May 19, 2010) — Long before the state of Florida passed legislation to establish a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), Coastal Orthopedics’ Lora Brown, MD began her fight to reverse the national epidemic of prescription drug abuse, in hopes of eradicating the current trends of “doctor shopping” and “pill mills”. Dr. Brown’s commitment has gained attention from state officials who have appointed her to serve on the Governor’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Implementation Program and Oversight Task Force.

“Patients should visit a doctor to heal and it is of major concern that the dynamic of physician and patient is changing,” said Dr. Brown, a pain management physician at Coastal Orthopedics, in Bradenton, FL and President of the Manatee County Medical Society, “By implementing the monitoring program, doctors can quickly see a patient’s prescription history without having to speculate, which allows a doctor to focus on restoring the health of a patient.”

As the bill awaits Governor Crist’s signature, Dr. Brown continues the development of one of Florida’s first Health Information Exchange (HIE) systems. The system will allow healthcare providers to retrieve a patient’s medical history through a secure electronic database.

Once implemented, the PDMP aims to arm physicians with the ability to search what drugs a person has been prescribed from other doctors and for what amounts. This will help to eliminate “doctor shopping” – the dangerous practice in which patients visit multiple doctors in order to get a bulk supply of drugs. Currently physicians don’t have a way to monitor prescribed medication from multiple sources.

According to the 2004 National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) survey, approximately 48 million people (ages 12 and older) have used prescription drugs for nonmedical reasons in their lifetimes; estimated to be about 20% of the population. This alarming statistic has motivated Dr. Brown and other pain doctors associated with the Florida Society of Pain Physicians to partner with the BOM/BOOM committee to regulate prescription practices in pain clinics. They hope that by establishing standards of care, they will be able to reduce the growing number of ‘pill-mills’ in the state.

“Accountability is key when it comes to providing prescription drug medication to patients, that is why rules need to be enforced in order to protect patients from themselves, the disease of addiction and potentially death,” said Dr. Brown.

About Coastal Orthopedics & Sports Medicine | Pain Management

Coastal Orthopedics & Sports Medicine | Pain Management has been serving the Sarasota-Bradenton area for over thirty years. Coastal Orthopedics is comprised of a group of over 20 specialty and sub-specialty trained orthopedic surgeons and pain management physicians focusing on the care and treatment of patients. Our pain management physicians work with patients to receive treatment focused on restoring activity through the reduction or elimination of pain associated with the musculoskeletal system through minimally invasive, interventional methods. For more information visit www.coastalorthopedics.com.

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