Pain Medications, Generic Instructions For

You have been given a prescription for pain medications or other medications. These medications may affect your judgment. They may also affect your ability to perform physical activities. Take these medications only as needed for pain. You do not have to take them if you are not having pain, unless directed by your caregiver. You can take less than the prescribed dose if you find you need just a small amount of medicine to control the pain.

After receiving these medications from your caregiver, while taking the medications, and for 8 hours after stopping the medications:

- Do not drive
- Do not operate machinery
- Do not operate power tools
- Do not sign legal documents

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Do not drink alcohol, take sleeping pills, or take other medications following the last dose of these medications for at least 8 hours, or as directed by your caregiver.
- Use a bulk stool softener such as Metamucil if you become constipated from your pain medications. Increasing your intake of fruits and vegetables will also help with constipation.
- Write down the times when you take your medications. Look at the times before taking your next medication. It is easy to become confused while on pain medications. Recording the times helps you not to overdose yourself.

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