

Pembroke Hospital

Inpatient Adolescent Services Patient & Family Handbook

**South 1
Entrance 5**
Pembroke Hospital
199 Oak Street
Pembroke, MA 02359

Nurse's Office Telephone: 781-829-7154
Boy's Unit Telephone: 781-829-7139
Girl's Unit Telephone: 781-829-7157

South 1 Visiting Hours:

Mon - Fri 11:30 am – 12:30 pm & 4:00 pm – 6:00pm
Sat & Sun 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm & 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm



WELCOME TO SOUTH 1

Welcome to the Inpatient Adolescent Program at Pembroke Hospital. This handbook is written for you but is intended for your family as well. It describes guidelines and other information that will orient you to the adolescent program. Please feel free to ask staff for help in understanding this guide or any other aspect of your treatment. Patients and families are always encouraged to ask questions and give us feedback. We look forward to working with you.

Being in the hospital may be difficult for you. You may feel nervous, angry or depressed. These feelings can be expected. Our goal is to help you help yourself as quickly as possible. Your goal may be to feel better, to get along better with others, to change how you act, or to resolve a crisis situation. We can help you reach your goals by providing a safe, structured and consistent treatment program.

During your hospitalization, we will evaluate your needs, help you become more stabilized, and transition you to treatment in an outpatient setting. Our hope is that your stay will be a collaborative effort, *as your help and hard work are the keys to your success.*

Again, welcome to Pembroke Hospital.

Our Mission Statement

***“Listening deeply and understanding the story of our patients...
Making a difference in the lives we touch.”***

PEMBROKE HOSPITAL

WE NEED YOUR HELP

to Maintain a Therapeutic & Healing Environment

based on collective cooperation, mutual respect, and shared trust

We ask that you are willing to:

1. be **kind and courteous** to your peers and staff
2. ensure that your active participation in treatment is your highest priority
3. be responsible for your actions
4. promote a clean and organized living space
5. in situations of conflict, engage in peaceful resolution
6. understand that your individual commitment to this process will greatly influence your and the collective group's success in treatment

Staff at Pembroke Hospital are committed to:

1. being **kind and courteous** to each other, patients, and their families
2. fostering your active participation in treatment
3. preserving a safe and secure environment
4. cultivating an atmosphere of growth and healing

How we can work together to maintain a therapeutic and healing environment:

- On admission we ask that you develop (with our help) an individualized plan called a "Personal De-escalation Plan". This plan identifies problem behaviors that may:
 - become troublesome during your stay, or
 - prevent you from reaching your treatment goals.
- This plan identifies your triggers and the circumstances when your problem behaviors are most likely to occur.
- Your plan will also indicate how we can be most helpful to you during these difficult periods.

Our priority is maintaining a therapeutic and healing environment where each person contributes to and benefits from his or her hospital experience.

The next pages will answer some commonly asked questions.

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN MY TREATMENT?

A team of highly qualified professionals will work with you and your family while you are here.

Psychiatrist	A medical doctor who specializes in psychiatry.
Case Manager	A licensed mental health professional who provides individual counseling, family meetings, and coordinates a discharge plan.
MHAs	Mental Health associates who provide direct care and continuous supervision of our patients.
Nurses	Licensed registered nurses who are responsible for administering medication, ongoing assessments, milieu management, and individual treatment plans.
Tutors	Certified masters degree level educators.

You may also be introduced to specialists such as dietitians, psychologists or sensory therapists as part of your treatment.

How Long Will I Be Here?

Our program provides short-term stabilization for adolescents in acute distress. Once it is determined that your condition can be treated at a less intensive level of care, your treatment team will make referrals for you to continue with treatment after discharge.

What Should I Bring?

- You will need enough clothing to last several days. There is a washer/dryer on the unit and patients may do their laundry whenever necessary.
- We ask whenever possible for valuables to be sent home with families, as storage space is limited.
- We apologize but for safety reasons certain items may not be permitted.
 - Cell phones, cameras, laptops/ipads, pagers, video cameras, or any device that is capable of recording or taking pictures.
 - Razors, nail files, glass, metal picture frames, aerosol cans, scarves, scissors, sharpies, staples, and any items that the treatment team deems unsafe/dangerous.

Clothing

- Casual clothing is suggested. We recommend that you not bring in any clothing that promotes drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, or gang related themes.
- We do not allow skirts, short shorts, dresses, or anything that may be revealing. Tank tops may be worn under clothing.
- Clothing that has large metal buckles, stockings, belts, straps, laces, chains, strings, bandanas are not permitted.

Hygiene

- Sheets, blankets, towels, pillows, soap, shampoo, brush, toothbrush/paste, lotion, powder, mouthwash, and combs will be provided for you. You may chose to bring your own hygiene supplies; however, some items such as perfume, cologne, mouthwash with alcohol, products with a pump spray, aerosol, hairdryers, straightening irons, make-up, loofas, shower caps are prohibited.

Because we encourage you to participate in groups, please shower outside of group schedules.

May I Use The Phone?

Yes. Unit phones are shared by all patients on the unit. We ask that you try to limit calls to 10 minutes at a time so that others may also make and receive calls. If your family member is unable to reach you on the unit telephone, they may call the nursing station with a message that will be promptly delivered to you.

Unit phones are available from 8:00 am to 9:30 pm to ensure patients have an opportunity for uninterrupted sleep. If there is an urgent phone call outside the set hours, a phone will be available for you.

May I Have Visitors?

All approved visitors are welcome to come during visiting hours.

- Visitors must check in at the main entrance with a picture I.D.
- All visitors must obtain a visitor's pass before coming onto the unit.
- Visitors 13 years or older are permitted on the units. Any visitor who is less than 18 years of age must be supervised by an adult, either the patient's guardian, or the visitor's guardian (with permission from the patient's guardian).
- For safety reasons, all items brought to the hospital by visitors must be checked at the nurse's station before being given to patients.
- For reasons of patient confidentiality and safety, visitors are not allowed to bring cell phones, lighters, backpacks, purses, or unsealed drinks onto the unit.
- We cannot give any information to visitors other than the patient's guardians.
- Visits take place on the unit in one of our visiting areas.
- Because we want patients to participate as much as possible in their Treatment Program, visiting hours are scheduled as follows:
 Mon - Fri 11:30 am – 12:30 pm & 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
 Sat & Sun 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm & 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
If necessary exceptions to these hours may be made with the help of the Case Manager and the Charge Nurse.
- We ask that visitors please refrain from going into patient bedrooms.
- Visitors may not bring in food that would need to be prepared by staff.

Safety and Security

- Video surveillance is used in all common areas throughout the hospital for your safety and protection.
- To ensure a safe, substance free environment, you and your belongings will be searched upon admission, and whenever items are being brought into the hospital for you.
- For identification purposes, a photo will be taken of you and will be included in your medical records.
- For the security and privacy of our patients, cell phones may not be used at any time while on any of the units.
- The name and phone number of the Human Rights Office at Pembroke Hospital, as well as information for legal advocates is posted on every unit.

What Types Of Food Can I Have Brought From Home?

You will be provided meals and snacks daily during specific times. Your visitor may bring in a meal for you to have during the visit or a single serving to save for later. We are unable to accept frozen meals, soups, or anything that we would be required to cook/prepare.

No peanut snacks are allowed on the unit at any time. Other items may be restricted at times due to specific patient food allergies.

A reasonable amount of personal snacks may be stored in our kitchen for consumption during snack and meal times, *as long as the food is in sealed, single serving packaging*, for example, lunch size bags of potato chips or single serving size containers of yogurt. Due to infection control concerns, uneaten portions of food or food that is not in single serving packaging cannot be left here.

Beverages brought onto the unit should be in unopened, unbreakable, factory sealed single serve containers and should not contain caffeine. Due to infection control concerns, unsealed beverages, such as those from a coffee shop or fast food restaurant, cannot be brought onto the units.

Will I Be Put On Medication?

It is possible that during your stay medication may be recommended. If your psychiatrist feels you may benefit from medication, he or she will first discuss this with you and your guardian.

The psychiatrist along with the nurses will provide you and your family with medication information regarding benefits, options, side effects, etc. We will address any concerns you may have.

What is a Treatment Plan?

Your treatment begins with an assessment of the issues that brought you into the hospital. The assessment is done by all members of your Treatment Team including your psychiatrist, case manager, rehab therapist, nurses and MHAs. Please try to answer their questions as honestly and as best as you can.

Following these assessments, your psychiatrist and other members of your Treatment Team will create your Treatment Plan with you and/or your family. Your Treatment Plan describes the issues that brought you into the hospital, the goals you need to work on to address these issues, and the ways these goals will be met. If you have questions about your Treatment Plan, you can ask any member of your Treatment Team.

What is a Discharge Plan?

Before you leave the hospital you will be involved in developing a written discharge plan. It will include your goals for after you leave the program, where you will live, any needs you may have, and any treatment or professional help you may need. With your permission and/or your guardian's permission, this plan is shared with the professionals involved in your care outside of the hospital.

RESPECT, KINDNESS and SAFETY: **The Cornerstones of Our Program**

Our program is set up to provide a safe, structured and therapeutic environment where you can work on the issues that caused your admission. You are here to get better and we want you to get the most out of your stay. We ask that you make every effort to participate in groups, cooperate with your doctor and the staff, and to ask us for help when you need it.

- Please be generous with your consideration of others. People appreciate kindness when they are having a tough time in their lives.
- Please respect each other's privacy and property. Do not lend or borrow the property of others.
- Please respect everyone's personal space by not touching other patients or staff, either in affection or anger.
- Please help keep everyone safe by making no threats or performing any acts of self-injury, violence, physical aggression or destruction of property. Drinking alcohol or taking illegal drugs or medications not prescribed by your doctor is prohibited here.
- Please help us maintain an environment of respect through no swearing, fighting, yelling, teasing, racial slurs, or sexual gestures or comments.

THIS IS A BULLY FREE ZONE

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Your parent/s or guardian will be involved in your treatment. They may be involved in the assessment process, treatment planning, meetings, discharge planning and other activities. Family/Guardian Meetings will occur as needed and will be scheduled during your stay at the hospital. They can include education about problems, treatment options, and how to prevent or handle future problems. Meetings are generally scheduled in advance to allow Treatment Team members to attend. The Treatment Team is available to your parent/s or guardian to discuss your treatment, progress and other issues by phone.

EDUCATIONAL GROUPS

Educational groups are held daily. These classes or groups consist of discussions on specific topics, or of exercises and assignments that are meant to help you work through issues.

ATTENDING GROUPS IS THE KEY TO HELPING YOU GET BETTER. Even if you don't feel like going, please make the effort. You are here to work on issues: the best place to do that is in groups.

A few of our many groups are described below:

Community Meeting. This is the first group of the day. In it you will be asked to set at least one goal for the day related to what you are working on while in the hospital. This group is also used to discuss and solve issues on the unit, review the unit guidelines and review the schedule for the day. You might also be asked to talk about how you're eating and/or sleeping.

Case Management Group. Group therapy is held each weekday and is run by a Case Manager; group lasts minimally 45 minutes. Its purpose is to help you work on problems and the thoughts and feelings and situations that led up to your hospitalization. This group allows you to get support from others with similar problems, talk about real life situations and try out new ways of doing things. It focuses on your goals, your strengths, and your solutions. It can help you change the way you think, feel and act.

Tutoring Program. All adolescents participate in the tutoring program. Teachers meet with you on the unit Monday through Friday for two hours a day. Coursework may be sent in by your school or the hospital teacher may create assignments for you to do.

Psychotherapy Education Groups. Various psycho-educational groups and classes are held daily. These groups last approximately 45 minutes and may be led by Mental Health Associates, Nurses, staff from the Rehab Therapy Department, or other members of the Treatment Team. Depending on the needs of the community, the topics discussed in these groups may include:

Sensory-Based Approaches: This multisensory treatment approach is offered in both individual and group formats.

Life Skills: These groups include grooming, hygiene, and cooking. They not only teach skills, but also encourage positive peer interactions.

Art Therapy: This group combines the use of art as an expression of feelings with the opportunity to address those situations that resulted in your hospitalization.

Medication Education: This group teaches about specific medications, the benefits and the side effects of medications, medication compliance, and treatment benefits.

Cognitive Skills: This group explains the important interaction between a person's view of themselves, others and the world, and the effect this has on their emotions, behaviors and physical state.

Coping Skills: These groups include the following: distress tolerance, emotion regulation, interpersonal effectiveness, mindfulness and grounding techniques, stress reduction, and anger management.

Recreation and Exercise: This group provides an opportunity for individual or group recreational activity and the development of life skills. The group may be held indoors in the day room or outside in the courtyard or the recreational area located at the back of the hospital.

Wrap Up Group. Wrap Up group is the last group of the day. During this group you will review your day in general and have the chance to specifically discuss how you did with your goal for the day. Did you meet your goal for the day? What was positive about your day? What do you want to try differently tomorrow?

***Information from groups is confidential
and should not be discussed with your peers outside of the group.***

GENERAL INFORMATION

Your room is a private space, whether it is a single or shared room. Please do your best to keep your room clean. If you need assistance, staff will help you. Visits will take place on the unit in common areas. Food and beverages will be consumed on the unit in common areas.

Confidentiality. Pembroke Hospital follows all laws and regulations concerning confidentiality. You are asked not to talk about other patients or their issues except in treatment groups. Please respect other's privacy by not going into other patient's rooms, congregating by the phones or around other people's visits.

The only exception to the rule of confidentiality is when an issue of someone's safety is at hand. Please tell a staff member if another patient tells you that they plan to hurt themselves or someone else, or if they plan to run away from the hospital.

Spiritual and Cultural Needs. While at Pembroke Hospital, we will do our best to address your spiritual and cultural needs. Feel free to discuss these needs with your Treatment Team so that we can accommodate your requests.

Televisions. T.V. can be watched between groups and free time until 9:30 pm. We do not allow shows that are violent, crime related, sexual in nature, music videos, r-rated movies, talk shows, or shows promoting drugs or alcohol. Video games must be rated "E: everyone."

6 FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FOR PATIENTS

1. The right to humane psychological and physical environment.
2. The right to be visited and others daily and in private, as reasonable and safe to do so.
3. The right to receive or refuse visits and phone calls from attorney, legal advocate, physician, social worker, psychologists, or clergy.
4. The right to send and receive unopened, uncensored mail.
5. The right to reasonable access to a phone to make and receive confidential calls.
6. The right to a fresh air break daily, as reasonable and safe to do so.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A PATIENT AT PEMBROKE HOSPITAL

YOUR LEGAL STATUS AS A PATIENT

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALIZATION: If you sign in on a Conditional Voluntary basis and you wish to leave, you must notify the hospital in writing. The hospital then has three business days in which to discharge you or petition the district court for your civil commitment.

THREE DAY INVOLUNTARY UNDER S. 12 (B): Before being admitted for a three day involuntary hospitalization, you must be given the opportunity to choose conditional voluntary status. The involuntary hospitalization expires after three business days unless the hospital petitions the district court for your commitment. A hearing will be conducted within five business days following the hospital's petition to the court.

If you have been involuntarily hospitalized under S. 12 (B), at your request, the hospital is required to contact the Committee for Public Counsel Services and a lawyer will be appointed to meet with you.

If you have been involuntarily hospitalized under S. 12 (B) and you have reason to believe that the admission is the result of an abuse or misuse of the S. 12 (B) admission process, you may request that an emergency hearing be held within 24 hours. The hospital will provide you or your attorney with a form to use for your request for a hearing.

COURT COMMITMENT: If the hospital petitions the court for your commitment, you may be required to stay at the hospital until a judge makes a decision to commit or discharge you. The court will appoint an attorney if you cannot afford one.

RIGHT TO APPEAL YOUR COMMITMENT: If the judge has ordered you to be involuntarily committed to this hospital and you believe you should no longer be retained here, you have the right to appeal the commitment. If you would like to appeal or have questions about your legal status, you may contact the hospital's Human Rights Officer, a legal advocate, or your attorney as discussed at the end of this notice.

DAILY LIVING

VISITS AND TELEPHONE: You have the right to receive visitors of your own choosing daily and in private at reasonable times. You also have the right to reasonable access to the telephone to make and receive confidential phone calls, unless the call violates a criminal law or would unreasonably infringe on other persons use of the telephone.

WHEN VISITS OR TELEPHONE USE MAY BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED: Your right to visit or talk by phone with your attorney or legal advocate, physician, psychologist, clergy or social worker at any reasonable time may not be restricted. Visits or telephone calls with others may be temporarily suspended if a visit or call in the immediate future would present a substantial risk of serious harm (based on your history of visits or calls) and there is no other, less restrictive way of preventing the harm. The restriction may not last longer than is necessary to prevent the harm and must be documented with specific facts in your record.

MAIL: You have the right to send and receive mail sealed, unopened, uncensored mail. However, for good cause, your mail may be opened and inspected in front of you, without it being read by staff, for the sole purpose of preventing contraband coming into the hospital. You have the right to be provided with stationary and postage in reasonable amounts.

PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND SEARCHES: You have the right to wear your own clothes, to keep personal items including certain toilet articles as safety permits. You have the right to an individual storage place and to keep and spend a small amount of money. You have the right not to have unreasonable searches of yourself and your possessions.

RELIGION: You have the right to exercise your religious beliefs.

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: You have the right to a humane psychological and physical environment. You must be provided living quarters and accommodations that afford privacy and security in resting, sleeping, dressing, bathing, personal hygiene, toileting, reading and writing.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS: You do not lose the right to vote, to hold a drivers license, to marry, to enter into contracts, and to make a Will simply because you have been admitted to a Psychiatric Hospital. However, these rights may be affected by the terms of a guardianship or by your mental status.

FRESH AIR BREAKS: You have the right to a fresh air break daily, as reasonable and safe to do so.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A PATIENT AT PEMBROKE HOSPITAL - CARE AND TREATMENT

RIGHT TO TREATMENT: you have the right to receive treatment which is suited to your needs and which is administered skillfully, safely, and humanely with full respect for your dignity and personal integrity.

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ILLNESS AND ITS TREATMENT: You have the right to be told the nature of your illness, why the clinicians believe you need treatment, and what alternative treatments are available. You have the right to be told the name and position of your physician and other staff responsible for your care and treatment.

RIGHT TO CONSENT AND REFUSE TREATMENT: You have the right to consent to or refuse psychiatric medication or other treatment except in an emergency or when a court has appointed a guardian to give consent for you or when the court has a particular treatment. Before giving your consent to any treatment or research, you have the right to be informed of its ordered purpose, risks, side effects, and likely outcome, as well as alternative treatments available (including the alternative of no treatment). You may change your mind and withdraw your consent at any time after giving it.

ACCESS TO YOUR RECORDS: You have the right to see your own treatment records unless this would result in serious harm to you. Your attorney may inspect your treatment records. Your records may also be released to others when a decision is made that it would be in your best interest. Any decision regarding release of your records may be appealed to the head of the hospital and then to the Department of Mental Health.

PARTICIPATION IN TREATMENT PLANNING: You have the right to participate in the planning and implementing your treatment to the maximum extent possible.

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH: You have the right to choose whether to participate as a research subject or in any treatment examination whose primary purpose is educational or informational. If you chose not to participate, your refusal will not affect your access to essential care.

RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION: You may be restrained or secluded only in an emergency, when there is immediate and substantial danger to yourself or others. You may be secluded or restrained only for as long as is necessary to protect you or others from harm, and your condition must be carefully monitored during restraint and seclusion. If restraint or seclusion is used, you will be given an opportunity to comment on its use and the circumstances leading up to it.

RULES, REGULATIONS, AND LAWS GOVERNING YOUR TREATMENT: You have the right to review a copy of the rules and regulation that relate to your care and treatment at this hospital. You may have additional rights granted by other state and federal laws and regulation.

FILING A COMPLAINT AND FINDING OUT ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS

FILING A COMPLAINT: You have the right to file a complaint if you believe your care or treatment is inhumane, dangerous or illegal. The Human Rights Officer at this hospital or other staff can explain the process and help you file a complaint.

ACCESS TO LEGAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS: Upon admission and upon your request at any time, you must be provided with the name, address, and telephone number of the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, Committee for Public Counsel Services, the Protection and Advocacy Organization that provides free legal assistance to psychiatric patients. You must also be provided reasonable assistance in contacting attorneys or paralegals from these organizations, and you may meet with one of these attorneys or paralegal if they visit the hospital.

Committee for Public Counsel Services

44 Bromfield Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02210
617-988-8341

Office of Quality Monitoring

The Joint Commission
One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
630-792-5000
Email: complaint@jointcommission.org

Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee

294 Washington Street- Suite 320
Boston, MA 02108
617-338-2345 800-342-9092
Live Operator Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30 – 1:00

Disability Law Center Inc.

11 Beacon Street, Suite 925
Boston, MA 02108
617-723-8455

The Department of Mental Health

617-626-8000 or 617-626-8117

MORE INFORMATION: Additional information about your rights or how to obtain legal assistance may be obtained from the hospital's patient handbook, from your Human Rights Officer or from other staff.

YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICERS:	781-829-7115	Human Rights Officer	Mon- Fri 9 AM- 5 PM
	781-829-7000	Nursing Supervisor	All other times

OPIOID MEDICATION EDUCATION FACT SHEET

We are in the midst of a national Opioid Crisis. We hope this information is helpful to patients and families.

What is an Opioid Medication? Opioid medication is a medication prescribed by a physician to treat moderate to severe pain that may not respond well to other pain medications. Conditions that may warrant the use of opioids include pain experienced following surgery, dental pain, and/or injury-related pain. Opioids help to manage pain by reducing the intensity of pain signals that reach the brain. Listed below are some of the more common opioid medications:

<u>Generic Name</u>	<u>Brand Name</u>
Codeine	only available in generic form
Fentanyl	Actiq, Duragesic, Fentora
Hydromorphone	Dilaudid, Exalgo
Hydrocodone	Lortab, Norco
Meperidine	Demerol
Methadone	Dolophine, Methadose
Morphine	Avinza, Kadian, MS Contin, Ora-Morph SR
Oxycodone	OxyContin, Oxyfast, Percocet, Roxicodone
Oxycodone and Naloxone	Targiniq ER

Most of these medications are taken by mouth. However, Fentanyl is available in a patch which allows the medication to be absorbed through the skin.

What are the Side Effects of Opioid Medications? All opioids can cause side effects. Some common, short term side effects include:

Constipation	Itching
Drowsiness	Nausea
Dry Mouth	Vomiting

Additional side effects include:

Decreased sex drive	Increased risk of falls
Decreased testosterone levels	Irregular menstruation
Depression	Opioid dependence
Dizziness	Opioid-induced abnormal pain sensitivity
Immunodeficiency	Slowed breathing (respiratory depression).

Persons taking opioids should not drive or use heavy equipment at home or at work, especially when first starting the medication. The use of opioids may increase a person's accident proneness and may result in increased risk of traffic accidents and accidental falls. It has been noted that older adults who use opioids have an increased risk of experiencing constipation, falls, nausea, sedation, urinary retention and vomiting. This also leads to a greater risk for injury in older adults.

What are the Risks of Opioid Medications? Over time some people may develop a tolerance to an opioid medication. This means that higher doses of the medication are needed to obtain the same results which can lead to increased side effects, dependence, and/or addiction. Dependence and/or addiction to opioid medications can result in unpleasant symptoms of withdrawal that may include increased feelings of sadness, irritability, nausea/vomiting, sweating and tremors.

The use of opioid medications with alcohol and/or other drugs that affect the central nervous system such as anti-depressants and anti-anxiety medications increase the risk of adverse effects including cardiac arrest, hallucinations, memory loss, organ malfunction, severe headache/migraine, and respiratory failure. Fatal events such as overdose and sudden respiratory failure also increase significantly. Older persons are more likely to experience significant adverse effects from drug interactions at a higher rate than the general population.

When prescribing opioid medications for the treatment of pain, physicians should monitor closely for the effectiveness of the medication and the presence of side effects. To discontinue the use of opioid medication it is best to have a physician help in weaning off slowly which will allow the body to adjust and avoid withdrawal symptoms.

All medications, including opioid medications, should be stored in a safe and secure location in the home to prevent accidental use. This location should be out of reach and out of sight, especially with children in the home. Medications should never be left out and should be returned to the location after each use. Dispose of Fentanyl patches by folding the patch, sticky sides together, & flushing it down the toilet right away. Be sure to keep the Poison Control number posted in the home and programmed into your cell phone, if applicable.

Pembroke Hospital

Resources:

http://pain.about.com/od/treatment/a/types_of_opioids_for_chronic_pain.htm
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/prescription-drugs/opioids/what-are-opioids>
<http://www.webmd.com/pain-management/guide/narcotic-pain-medications>

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