

# Opioids for Chronic Pain Documentation Suggestions

Suggested components of documentation	Example: 55 y/o cis-gender male seen for initial provider visit. CC: chronic b/l hand pain.
<p><b>Pain history</b> Complete OLD CARTS for pain complaint.</p> <p><b>TIPS:</b> Treatment: pain medications, non-pharmacologic therapies, surgeries. Severity: PEG scale includes functional impact of pain. See “Current pain assessment” below.</p>	<p><b>Onset:</b> 10 years ago, no specific injury reported <b>Location:</b> distal interphalangeal joints of hands and feet <b>Duration:</b> 10 years, progressively worse every year <b>Characterization:</b> intermittent sharp pains and numbness in hands and feet <b>Aggravating:</b> cold and rainy weather <b>Relieving:</b> oxycodone (x15 minutes), does not take other meds or do physical therapy <b>Treatment history:</b> Oxycodone 30mg 4x/day x10 years. Tapered to 100 tabs last month; does not want opioids anymore, but did not agree to taper &amp; reports more pain. <b>Severity:</b> 5-8/10 PEG scale</p>
<p><b>Other relevant history</b> <b>Imaging:</b> x-ray, MRI, ultrasound. <b>Labs:</b> related to disease processes or substance related. <b>Prior notes:</b> past diagnoses, ROI from other providers. <b>Other medications:</b> non-opioid medications.</p>	<p><b>Imaging:</b> 2012: X-ray bilateral hands: erosions <b>Labs:</b> 2012: rheumatoid factor mildly elevated <b>Prior notes:</b> distal interphalangeal joint swelling consistent with arthritis; missed rheumatology appointment after referral 9 years ago <b>Other medications:</b> previously used gabapentin but stopped: “doesn’t help pain”</p>
<p><b>Current pain assessment</b> The 3-question <a href="#">PEG</a> reflects average pain and impact on enjoyment and function over past week (pg. <a href="#">14</a>)</p>	<p><b>Past week average pain:</b> 5 with medication/ 9 without <b>Pain interference on life enjoyment:</b> 6 with medication/ 9 without <b>Pain impact on general activity:</b> 4 with medication/ 7 without</p>
<p><b>Physical exam</b> Complete focused exam yearly or more frequently.</p>	<p>Full range of motion in hands and feet; mild swelling of distal IP joints; sensation intact with sense of numbness in distal and plantar feet</p>
<p><b>Risk factor assessment</b> Guides clinical decision-making (pg. <a href="#">15</a>).</p>	<p>Substance use (ETOH &amp; meth) and psychiatric history (schizophrenia controlled with medication) noted.</p>
<p><b>Opioid use disorder screening</b> Use DSM-5 (pg. <a href="#">25</a>).</p>	<p>Patient does not meet the criteria for OUD: 1 criterion noted.</p>
<p><b>Urine drug screen</b> (pg. <a href="#">17</a>)</p>	<p>UDS as expected XX/XX/XXXX and YY/YY/YYYY. Repeat every 3 months given risk profile.</p>
<p><b>Control substance agreement or consent</b> (pg. <a href="#">18</a>)</p>	<p>Controlled substance agreement reviewed with patient XX/XX/XXXX. Copy given to patient.</p>
<p><b>Prescription drug monitoring program</b> (pg. <a href="#">19</a>)</p>	<p>PDMP reviewed XX/XX/XXXX; no unexpected prescriptions.</p>
<p><b>Naloxone</b> (pg. <a href="#">22</a>)</p>	<p>Prescribed intranasal naloxone XX/XX/XXXX. Signs of when to use naloxone reviewed.</p>
<p><b>Plan</b> Include rationale for plan and future goals. <b>TIPS:</b> continuity of care, obtainable goals, and minimizing patient risks make a strong rationale.</p>	<p>I do not treat neuropathic pain with opioids and patient does have some risks. However, for now will continue current dose of oxycodone because patient has done well for years, underwent a challenging recent taper, has no evidence of OUD, and is new to me. Given risks of discontinuation, will work closely with patient to reduce reliance upon opioids. Repeat hand X-rays ordered. Follow UDS every 3 months and continue screening for OUD.</p>

\*Page numbers refer to **Opioids and Chronic Pain: A Guide for Primary Care Providers**, available at [www.ciaosf.org/materials](http://www.ciaosf.org/materials)