13 Red Flags Your Pain Patient is a Drug Seeker

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RED FLAG 1: The patient comes from a town far from your office where most patients don't usually come from.
RED FLAG 2: The patient has seen many doctors in a short period of time.
RED FLAG 3: Patients who come carrying records that are from several years ago. Most of the time they have been carrying these same records around to many different doctors to get a pain prescription.
RED FLAG 4: The patient uses multiple pharmacies.
RED FLAG 5: The patient claims an allergy to all pain medications except the one they are seeking.
RED FLAG 6: Patients who come telling you the dose, the medication, and the quantity they want. They don't want to listen to anything you have to say.
RED FLAG 7: The patient isn't willing to consider any other treatments. Patients who are truly in pain want it to stop. They are willing to try most therapies that would make that happen. A drug-seeker only wants the medication.
RED FLAG 8: The patient calls when the office is closing or right before the weekend/holiday starts requesting a prescription.
RED FLAG 9: The patient lies or their story doesn't make sense. It is imperative to take a detailed history. Often, there are inconsistencies in a made-up story.
RED FLAG 10: The patient exaggerates their symptoms. Patients will walk into the office fine but once in the presence of the healthcare provider, will hold their painful body part and start moaning in pain. Don't be fooled by tears. Many drug seekers are very good actors.
RED FLAG 11: The patient gets aggressive when you bring up the idea to try different medications.
RED FLAG 12: The patient gives false information. Their address is fake or they give you a disconnected phone number.
RED FLAG 13: The patient is on multiple controlled substances. Recent research shows a higher mortality rate in those, who for example, use both opioid medications and benzodiazepines.