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**Randall J. Franiak, M.D.**

### Information about Diagnostic Medial Branch Blocks

- You have had a procedure called Diagnostic Medial Branch Blocks, for the purposes of helping to determine the cause of your back or neck pain. The diagnostic test is required to be ascertain that the pain is coming from the facet joints.
- Based on your symptoms and your imaging studies (X-rays, or MRI), it is thought that some or all of your pain is coming from the facet joints in your spine.
- Dr. Franiak performed the Diagnostic Medial Branch Blocks today under Xray. A small amount of numbing medicine was injected on the nerves the innervate the Facet Joints. This will numb up the nerve **temporarily**. The numbing medicine typically lasts a few hours.
- This procedure is not intended to be therapeutic, in other words, it will not treat your pain long term. It is a test to see if pain gets better if we block the facet joints.
- Immediately following your procedure, we want to assess your pain. If the pain is significantly improved from the numbing medicine, it can be assumed your pain is coming from the facet joints. The numbing medicine will wear off later today. The results will likely not last longer than a day.
- If your pain is NOT improved, we can assume the pain is not coming from the facet joints.
- If your pain is temporarily improved, you would likely benefit from a procedure called a Radiofrequency Neurotomy. This procedure ablates (destroys) a small section of the pain nerve. Typically this helps pain for 9 months or longer.
- Radiofrequency Neurotomy procedure will require authorization from your insurance company.

### Discharge Instructions

You may have small band aids on your back or neck. You can remove them at any time. You do not need to replace the band aids.

This skin where you had the blocks was scrubbed up with surgical soap prior to the procedure. You may notice some residual orange or greenish soap.

If the area looks infected (red, Hot, swollen or oozy) or if you develop a fever, call the office at 317-572-2240. It is preferable that you avoid soaking, such as in a bathtub or hot tub for about 24 hours, just to reduce chance of infection. You may shower anytime.

You may eat or drink anything you'd like after your procedure, there are no restrictions.

Please call the office to arrange follow up. 317-572-2240

*If you experience an emergency medical situation, go to the emergency room or call 911*