

Harford County Health Department

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Russell W. Moy, MD, MPH • Health Officer Marcy Austin • Deputy Health Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Harford County Health Care Providers

FROM: Russell Moy, MD, MPH, Health Officer

Harford County Health Department

DATE: March 21, 2018

SUBJECT: Public Health Alert – Impact of Pain Clinic Service Interruptions

We have been made aware of an interruption in the continuity of care of thousands of patients from a pain management practice in Baltimore County. Many of these patients are Harford County residents. For your information, the following is the link to the Baltimore Sun article that provides more details: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/bs-md-co-clinics-searched-20180227-story.html.

We are concerned that the interruption in continuity of care and medication may lead to adverse patient consequences, such as loss of necessary medication for pain control or withdrawal symptoms from sudden discontinuation of pain medication. We ask that you use reasonable judgment in your roles as medication dispensers related to this situation, with patient safety the primary goal.

This situation may result in an increased number of individuals seeking services from health care providers, EMS, emergency departments, social services, law enforcement and others. Assistance from County health care providers, especially pain management specialists, who may be able to accept new patients into their practices would be helpful.

In Harford County, for assistance with identifying resources or referrals, you may contact:

HealthLink (UMUCH): 1-800-515-0044 (8am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday)

Mobile Crisis: 410-638-5248 (after hours)

As additional details become available, we will keep you posted. Thank you for your attention to this public health situation.