What is the objective of the Pain Clinic?

To provide treatments and services for patients who suffer from “chronic pain.” The purpose of the Pain Clinic is to provide interventional pain management in conjunction with the medications being provided by your primary care physician or the physician who referred you to the Pain Clinic. Intervventional treatment may be used in conjunction with other therapies or as a stand-alone therapy in an effort to reduce or eliminate the production and/or transmission of a pain signal within the body.

In most cases, this means identifying and treating the underlying cause of a particular pain. In other cases, where the pathology of the pain cannot be successfully addressed through medical or surgical therapy, the “intervention” may take on the form of “pain control” such as physical therapy and/or psychological services.
What is chronic pain?
Chronic pain is defined as pain that lasts 3 or more months. It is both a physical and psychological condition, not simply a physical state.

Why is there a need for a Pain Clinic?
An estimated 50 million Americans live with chronic pain caused by disease, disorder or an accident. An additional 25 million people suffer acute pain resulting from surgery or an accident. Approximately two thirds of these individuals have been living with this pain for more than five years. The loss of productivity and daily activity due to pain is substantial. In a study conducted in 2000, it was reported that 36 million Americans missed work in the previous year due to pain and that 83 million indicated that pain affected their participation in various activities.

Traveling out of the area to receive treatment can be agonizing for the sufferer, costly and difficult to schedule. The Pain Clinic at Marshall Professional Center provides treatment options in a convenient, close-to-home setting to the residents of Marshall County and surrounding areas.

What are the sources or causes of “chronic pain”?
The most common types of pain include arthritis, lower back pain, bone/joint pain, and muscle pain. “Chronic pain” may be associated with: Cancer, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, Neuralgia, Osteo and Rheumatoid Arthritis, Shingles or traumatic injuries following work-related accidents.

What types of treatments or services will be provided at the Pain Clinic?
While there are many different sources of chronic pain, the interventions offered through the Pain Clinic will be focused primarily on pain associated with the spine and the nerves along the spinal column. These interventions or “procedures” will include, but not be limited to: cervical, thoracic, and lumbar epidural steroid injections, Caudal steroid injections, intra-articular facet blocks, peripheral nerve blocks, selective nerve blocks, sympathetic nerve blocks, and transforaminal epidural steroid injections. We work with your primary care or referring physician to provide these interventional procedures. We do not prescribe medications. As a patient of the Pain Clinic, you will continue to see your primary care or referring physician for medication management.

Do patients need a referral to the Pain Clinic?
Yes. Patients must be referred to the Pain Clinic by a physician. The Pain Clinic is a partner in the treatment and management of chronic pain—not a replacement for the patient’s primary or specialty care physician. Patients will continue to see their regular physician for all other medical needs including the management of any medications.

Who are the Physicians at the Pain Clinic?
Dr. Donald Dillard, Chief of Anesthesiology at Marshall Medical Center North, has focused his practice on interventional pain management procedures for more than 15 years. Dr. Dean Chassay completed his residency in Anesthesiology at UAB including additional training in interventional pain management. He has been practicing pain management procedures for more than five years.

The Marshall Pain Clinic is located on a tobacco-free campus. Thank you for respecting the health of others.