

# PRESCRIPTION OPIOID SAFETY



- ✓ Opioids are highly addictive.
- ✓ Opioids affect how the brain controls breathing. Overdoses can slow breathing and cause death.
- ✓ Combining opioids with alcohol and other drugs can substantially increase the risk of an overdose.

## PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS

Hydrocodone (Vicodin <sup>®</sup> , Lortab <sup>®</sup> , Lorcet <sup>®</sup> , Norco <sup>®</sup> )	Methadone (Dolophine HCL <sup>®</sup> , Methadose <sup>™</sup> )
Oxycodone (OxyContin <sup>®</sup> , Percodan <sup>®</sup> , Percocet <sup>®</sup> , Endocet <sup>®</sup> )	Meperidine (Demoral <sup>®</sup> )
Morphine (MS Contin <sup>®</sup> , Kadian <sup>®</sup> , Avinza <sup>®</sup> , Duramorph <sup>®</sup> , Roxanol <sup>®</sup> , Oramorph SR <sup>®</sup> )	Tramadol (Ultram <sup>®</sup> )
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid <sup>®</sup> )	Buprenorphine (Butrans <sup>®</sup> )
Fentanyl - oral, nasal spray, patch (Duragesic <sup>®</sup> , Actiq <sup>®</sup> , Sublimaze <sup>®</sup> )	Oxymorphone (Opana <sup>®</sup> )
Codine- various brands (Tylenol <sup>®</sup> with Codine #3, Tylenol <sup>®</sup> with Codine #4)	Tapentadol (Nucynta <sup>®</sup> )



## WHAT TO DO

- Talk to your physician about non-addictive pain treatment options.
- Don't combine opioids with alcohol and other drugs, including over the counter medications. Check with a pharmacist if you are uncertain, especially when you have medications prescribed by more than one physician.
- After surgery, have a support person present when you go over post-operative instructions for medications.
- Only take the medication as prescribed and consult with your physician or a pharmacist if you miss a dose or lose track of whether you've taken a dose.
- Make sure a family member or caregiver knows where to access Narcan<sup>®</sup> and what to do in the event of an accidental opioid overdose.



## STORAGE AND DISPOSAL SAFETY

- Lock opioids in a lock bag or box to prevent access by others.
- Take unused medications to a drug take-back site for disposal.

*Safe and responsible use of opioids for chronic pain: A patient information guide.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; 2018. [https://www.va.gov/PAINMANAGEMENT/Opioid\\_Safety/OSI\\_docs/10-791-Safe\\_and\\_Responsible\\_Use\\_508.pdf#](https://www.va.gov/PAINMANAGEMENT/Opioid_Safety/OSI_docs/10-791-Safe_and_Responsible_Use_508.pdf#). Accessed December 2020.

*Take Action to Prevention Addiction: Learn how to reduce risk.* Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/Prevent-Addiction-Fact-Sheet.pdf>. Accessed December 2020.

*Preventing an Opioid Overdose: Know the signs save a life.* Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/patients/Preventing-an-Opioid-Overdose-Tip-Card-a.pdf>. Accessed December 2020.

*Opioids: Prescription pain relievers.* Madison, WI: Wisconsin Department of Health Services. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/prescription-pain-relievers.htm>. Accessed December 2020.