Prescription Opioids

What are opioids?

Opioids are painkillers and can include these drugs:
- Hydrocodone (Vicodin™)
- Oxycodone (OxyContin™)
- Oxymorphone (Opana™)
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid™)
- Tramadol (Ultram™)
- Methadone, Fentanyl
- Norco™, Lortab™

What are the risks?

Prescription opioids can help with pain in the short term, but have serious risks including overdose or death.

1 in 4 people using prescription opioids long-term become addicted

Drug Poisoning Deaths USA

In 1999, there were over 11,000 drug poisoning deaths in the U.S.

In 2014, there were nearly 39,000.

Questions to ask your doctor

- What other drugs should I avoid while taking an opioid?
- What are the side effects and risks?
- How often do I take my opioid?
- How can I take as little opioid pain medication as possible?
- How can I stop taking opioids as soon as possible?
- What are non-opioid options with fewer risks?
- How can I manage my pain without an opioid?
- How often do I need to follow up?

Never share a prescription opioid with others, or use someone else’s prescription.

Take back your unused opioids to a community drug take-back program or your pharmacy mail-back program.