

# OPIOID FACT SHEET: KNOW THE RISKS

Prescription opioids are used to block pain signals between the brain and body and are often prescribed to treat moderate to severe pain, typically following a surgery or injury, or for certain health conditions. Some of the common names include Percocet (oxycodone with acetaminophen); OxyContin (oxycodone); and Vicodin (hydrocodone with acetaminophen).

## PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS CARRY SERIOUS RISKS OF ADDICTION, OVERDOSE AND DEATH ESPECIALLY WITH PROLONGED USE!



Opioids block the feeling of pain from the brain; It doesn't treat the underlying cause of pain.



Opioids increase your chance of accidental overdose and death especially if mixed with alcohol or other drugs.

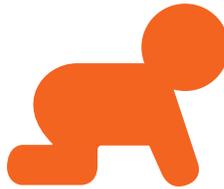


There are effective non-opioid options available for relieving short term pain, talk with your healthcare provider to learn more.

## PROPER DOSAGE: OPIOIDS SHOULD ONLY BE TAKEN AS DIRECTED. MISUSE AND ABUSE OF OPIOIDS CAN BE ILLEGAL, EXTREMELY HARMFUL, AND EVEN DEADLY.



Never share prescription opioids with anyone.



Store any medications out of reach of children: one dose can cause an accidental overdose.



Do not increase dosage or take more often than prescribed by your healthcare provider.

## RISKS ARE GREATER WITH:



History of drug misuse, substance use disorder or overdose



Mental health conditions



Sleep apnea



Older age (65 and older)



Pregnancy

