



What to Ask Your Doctor Before Taking Opioids: A Checklist



Opioids (such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, codeine, and morphine) are not right for everyone. They can have some very serious side effects. Ask your healthcare provider these questions before taking opioids.

- Why do I need this medication—is it right for me?
- How long should I take this medication?
- Are there non-medication and non-opioid alternatives that could help with pain relief while I recover?
- How can I reduce the risk of potential side effects from this medication?
- What if I have a history of addiction with tobacco, alcohol, or drugs?
- Could this treatment interact with my other medicine for anxiety, sleeping problems, or seizures?
- Can I share this medication with someone else? Why not?
- How should I store my opioid medication to prevent other people from taking it?
- What should I do with unused opioid medicine?
- Can I have a prescription for Narcan (naloxone)?

Sources:

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration. What to Ask Your Doctor Before Taking Opioids. <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/what-ask-your-doctor-taking-opioids>
2. Take Charge Ohio: Manage Pain, Prevent Medication Abuse. <https://takecharge.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/tco/>