

# Opioid Pain Medicines

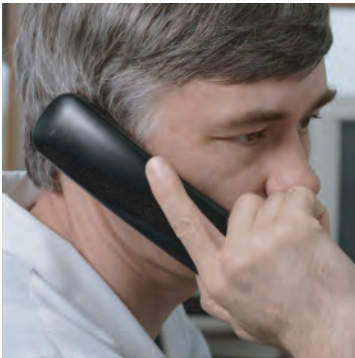
**Opioids are used to treat moderate to severe pain. They can provide relief when other medicines do not.**



*Aim for pain relief that will let you keep doing the things you need to do.*



*Drink more water and eat more fiber so you will not be constipated.*



*Call your doctor if your medicine is not working.*

- Always tell your doctor if you are having pain.
- Make a plan with your doctor for using your pain medicines.
- Aim for pain relief that will let you keep doing the things you need and like to do.
- Your body may take a few days to get used to the opioid medicines.
- When used the right way, your pain medicine should not stop working or become habit forming.

**Ask your doctor** when to take your pain medicine, how much to take and how often to take it.

**Ask your doctor** about laxatives that you might need while taking opioid medicines.

**Ask your doctor** about safe ways to reduce or stop taking pain medicine once you have less pain.

**Call your doctor** if the medicine is not working - or if you have an upset stomach, you are throwing up or if you feel sleepy.

### To help you take your pain medicine the right way:

- Do not take opioid pain medicines unless your doctor tells you to.
- Always take pain medicines the way your doctor tells you.
- Never take anyone else's pain medicine or let anyone else take yours.
- Call your doctor if your pain medicine is not working or is causing problems.
- Call your doctor before changing how and when you take your pain medicine.
- Drink more water, eat more fiber, and take a laxative if your doctor tells you so you will not be constipated.
- Do not drink alcohol or take other medicines with alcohol in them.
- Do not take pain medicine if you are going to drive or need to be alert.
- Always keep your medicines in a safe place so children cannot get to them.

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For more information, go to [www.MedlinePlus.gov](http://www.MedlinePlus.gov)

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