

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.