



TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER ABUSE

- Discuss effective painkiller alternatives to prescription opioids (or narcotics) with your doctor, physician, dentist or prescribing medical professional.
- Talk to your kids about the dangers of taking medications not prescribed for them, especially prescription painkillers.
- Take medicine only if it has been prescribed for you by your doctor, physician, dentist or prescribing medical professional.
- Take your medication only as long as it's needed, and never more than directed by your prescribing medical professional.
- Store your prescription painkillers securely – ideally, locked in a cabinet or drawer.
- Dispose of unused, expired or unwanted medication properly. For a list of Drug Take Back locations in Wisconsin, visit DoseOfRealityWI.gov.

For even more of a Dose of Reality with regard to prescription painkillers, talk with your doctor, dentist, pharmacist or prescribing medical professional, or visit DoseOfRealityWI.gov. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

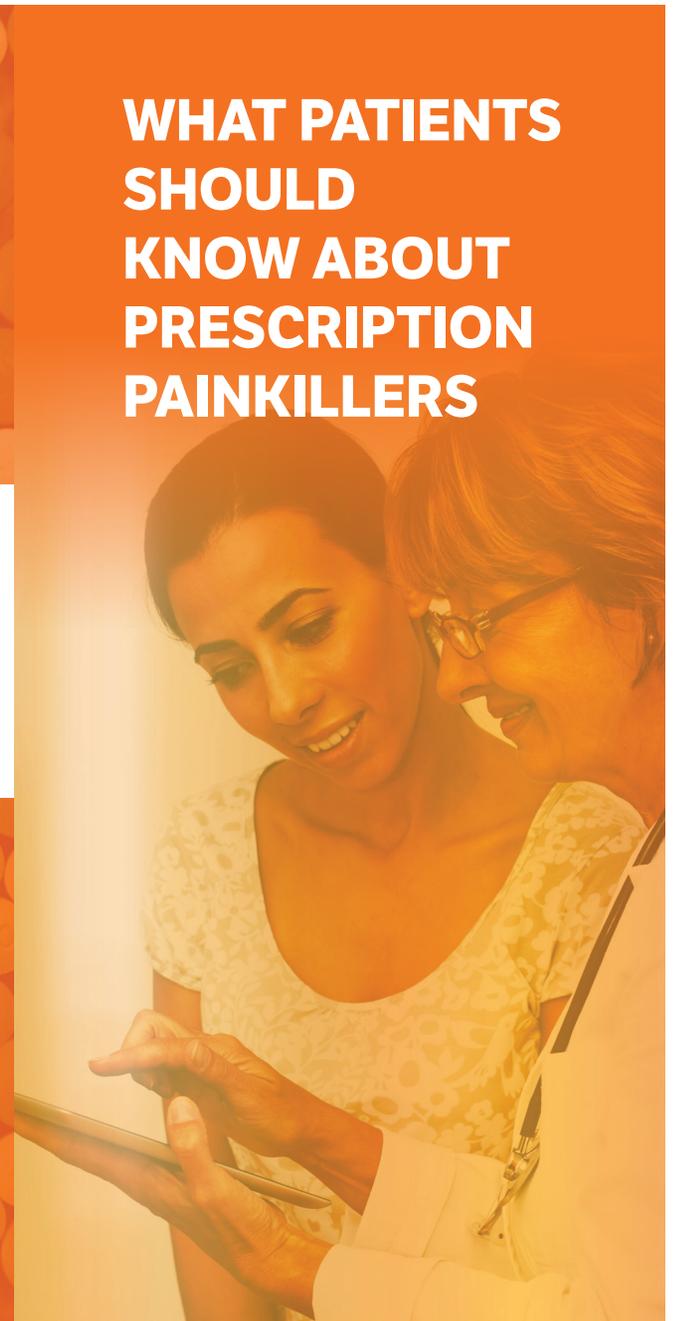


Learn more at: DoseOfRealityWI.gov

A message from Wisconsin Department of Justice, Brad Schimel, Attorney General, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services



Wisconsin
Department of Health Services



WHAT PATIENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS



DOSE OF REALITY
PREVENT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER ABUSE IN WISCONSIN.

MYTH: PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS ARE COMPLETELY SAFE BECAUSE THEY ARE PRESCRIBED BY A DOCTOR.

DOSE OF REALITY: IN THE U.S., PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS ARE INVOLVED WITH MORE OVERDOSE DEATHS THAN HEROIN AND COCAINE COMBINED.

Doctors, physicians, dentists and prescribing medical professionals prescribe opioid (or narcotic) painkillers like hydrocodone and oxycodone to help treat severe or chronic pain, but the truth is that the risk of addiction for these types of painkillers is high. However, there are effective painkillers available that are non-narcotic. Talk with your prescribing medical professional about whether you should consider alternatives available to you and your family.



Common Opioids/Narcotics

Codeine

Various Brand Names

Fentanyl

Brand Names: Actiq®, Duragesic®, Sublimaze®

Hydrocodone

Brand Names: Vicodin®, Lortab®, Lorcet®

Morphine

Brand Names: Duramorph®, Roxanol®

Oxycodone

Brand Names: OxyContin®, Percodan®, Percocet®

MYTH: Older adults are the most likely to become addicted to prescription painkillers.

DOSE OF REALITY: Young people ages 12-25 are at the highest risk of becoming addicted to painkillers.

You may be surprised to learn that young people are the most at risk of becoming addicted to prescription painkillers. Young people believe that opioid painkillers are safe because they are prescribed by a doctor and they see their parents and other adults taking them. However, since 4 out of 5 heroin addicts start with abuse of prescription painkillers, it's important that teens and young adults become aware of their risks and dangers. Please be sure to share this Dose of Reality with them.

MYTH: Most people who are abusing prescription painkillers get them from their doctor, dentist or pharmacist.

DOSE OF REALITY: More than 70% of people abusing prescription painkillers get them through friends or relatives.

Most people in Wisconsin don't realize the risks and dangers of prescription painkillers, especially prescription opioids/narcotics. It may seem harmless to share a pill with someone or to take one being offered, but remember that you may be innocently contributing to addiction or abuse.

Visit DoseOfRealityWI.gov for more information