

# What To Ask Your Doctor About Opioids

- Why do I need this medication? What will it do for me?
- What are the potential side effects of this medication? How can I reduce the risk of experiencing them?
- How long should I take this medication?
- Is there a danger that I could become dependent on or addicted to this medication? How quickly could that happen?
- Should I be more concerned if I have a history of addiction with tobacco, alcohol or other drugs? What if there's a history of addiction in my family?
- Could this treatment interact with my other medications, or with alcohol?
- Are there non-opioid pain relief alternatives that I could consider?
- How should I store my opioid medication to prevent other people from taking it?
- What should I do with unused opioid medicine?
- What happens if I overdose? Should I also have naloxone, a potentially life-saving medication that counters an opioid overdose?
- If I begin taking prescription opioid medication, when should I schedule a follow-up appointment with you?