

# Prescription Opioid Pain Medicines: What You Need To Know

TN

Department of  
Health

## What Are Opioids?

Opioids are a type of medicine that are meant to reduce feelings of pain.

Common prescription opioids include:

- Hydrocodone
- Oxycodone
- Oxymorphone
- Methadone
- Morphine
- Fentanyl

## What Are the Risks and Side Effects?

- Constipation
- Upset stomach
- Vomiting
- Dry mouth
- Itching
- Increased sensitivity to pain
- Tolerance: needing to take more of the medication for the same pain relief
- Physical dependence: having signs of withdrawal when the medication is stopped
- Sweating
- Confusion
- Sleepiness
- Dizziness
- Depression

## Storage and Disposal

Keep all prescriptions in a locked cabinet and be aware of the number of pills in the bottle. Dispose of your unused prescription drugs at a Tennessee take-back location.

## What Do You Need To Know?

- Opioids are highly addictive.
- Everyone is at risk of abuse, addiction and overdose.
- There are other options for taking care of pain.
- Just because a prescription comes from a doctor does not mean it is 100% safe.
- Opioids are not the best for long-term pain relief.
- Do not take prescription pills that are not given to you by a doctor.

**The elderly, teenagers, pregnant women have an increased risk of prescription drug abuse and overdose.**

**Serious risks of taking opioids include overdose, addiction and death.**