

# Knowing the Risks of Opioid Prescription Pain Medications

**Opioid prescription pain medications are a type of medicine used to relieve pain. Some of the common names include oxycodone and acetaminophen (Percocet®); oxycodone, (OxyContin®); and hydrocodone and acetaminophen (Vicodin®).**

## **These Medications:**

- Cause your brain to block the feeling of pain; they **do not** treat the underlying cause of pain;
- **Are very addictive, especially** if they are not used correctly;
- **Increase your chances of accidental overdose, coma, and death** if taken with prescription medications, including anti-anxiety and sedating medications, and alcohol.

**Effective non-opioid options are available** for relieving short-term pain, including ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®), acetaminophen (Tylenol®), physical therapy, chiropractic, acupuncture, and cognitive behavioral therapy. *Talk with your healthcare provider to learn more.*

## **Proper Dosage**

Opioids should only be taken as directed. Misuse and abuse of opioids can be illegal, extremely harmful, and even deadly.

- **Never share this prescription with anyone.**
- **Store out of reach of children — one dose can cause an accidental overdose.**
- **Do not increase dosage or take more often than directed by your healthcare provider.**

## **Dispose of Medicines Safely**

- There are many locations in Rhode Island that offer safe disposal of prescription pain medications. For locations, visit: [preventoverdoseri.org/get-rid-of-medicines](http://preventoverdoseri.org/get-rid-of-medicines)
- If you cannot get to a drug disposal location, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends flushing opioid prescription pain medications down the toilet.

## **Get Naloxone**

Naloxone is available without a prescription from your doctor.

Ask your pharmacist today about how you can get naloxone, a medicine that can reverse an opioid overdose. To learn more, visit: [preventoverdoseri.org/get-naloxone](http://preventoverdoseri.org/get-naloxone)

**More at [health.ri.gov/healthrisks/painmeds](http://health.ri.gov/healthrisks/painmeds) and [PreventOverdoseRI.org](http://PreventOverdoseRI.org)**



[newportcountyprevention.org](http://newportcountyprevention.org)

