

EVERYONE IS AT RISK

Your pain pills may be opioids, a class of drugs that includes prescriptions like oxycodone (OxyContin[®], Percocet[®]) and hydrocodone (Vicodin[®]). Taking opioids longer than **5 days increases your risk of addiction.**



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to learn more.**



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What Are Opioids and How Do They Work?

- Opioids are a class of drugs that are prescribed to relieve extreme, acute pain.
- Opioids work by masking pain, but they do not heal the physical cause for pain.
- Opioids can come in different forms and have different names. Some common opioids are:
 - Oxycodone
 - Hydrocodone
 - OxyContin®
 - Vicodin®
 - Percocet®
 - Codeine
 - Morphine
- Opioids are effective for short-term pain, but **they are also highly addictive**. Long-term use can quickly spiral into dependence and addiction if prescriptions are not monitored closely.

Are Opioids Dangerous?

- Prescription opioids can be taken without negative consequences **if their use is limited in dose and duration**. But taking too much, or for too long, can lead to:
 - **Dependence:** This can develop in as little as 5 days of use.
 - **Addiction:** This can develop in as little as 7 days of use.
 - **Overdose:** The depressive effects of opioids can cause your body to shut down if too much is taken, especially when combined with other depressants like alcohol.
- **ANYONE** can become addicted to opioids. It's not because someone is weak, but because opioids are just that strong. Be careful when using prescription opioids. Only take them as prescribed.

These risks can be prevented and treated. Learn more about warning signs, and available resources and support.

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