

# Questions to Ask Your Doctor about Prescription Opioids

Making decisions about treating pain is difficult. If you are considering starting or questioning whether to continue taking prescription opioids, talk to your doctor about side effects, risks, and addiction — and [make sure that you watch for them too](#).

Here are a few questions that can help you and your doctor make the best choice for you:

- Why do I need this medication—is it right for me?
- How long should I take this medication?
- Are there non-opioid alternatives that could help with pain relief while I recover?
- How can I reduce the risk of potential side effects from this medication?
- What if I have a history of addiction with tobacco, alcohol or drugs?
- What if there is a history of addiction in my family?
- Could this treatment interact with my other medications?
- Can I share this medication with someone else? Why not?
- How should I store my opioid medication to prevent other people from taking it?
- What should I do with unused opioid medicine?
- Can I have a prescription for naloxone?

SOURCE: Food and Drug Administration - <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/what-ask-your-doctor-taking-opioids>

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If you or someone you know has a substance use disorder, also known as addiction, we can help.

**Call anytime, toll-free.**

