



Opioids: What You Should Know

Opioids (also known as narcotics) are often prescribed to manage discomfort after surgical procedures or injuries, as well as to cope with chronic pain.

Common Prescription Opioids

- Codeine
- Demerol
- Dilaudid
- Fentanyl
- Morphine
- OxyContin
- Percocet
- Vicodin

Signs of Opioid Addiction

- Needing the drug for a longer time or at higher doses than prescribed
- An inability to stop using or taper off the medication as directed
- Changes in behavior, mood, or appearance
- Difficulty with managing daily responsibilities
- Being under the influence when at work or at other times when they shouldn't be
- Abrupt changes in finances or unexplained expenses
- Obtaining prescription opioids by illegal means
- Use of heroin, an illegal opioid

Overdose Warning Signs

- Being unresponsive or unconscious
- Depressed or shallow breathing
- Small pupils that do not respond to light
- Purple or blue-tinged skin, especially around the fingertips or lips
- If you or someone in your household is taking opioids, keep an overdose prevention medication on hand

Assistance from LifeMatters

- Counseling to cope with your own or a loved one's addiction
- Options for management of chronic pain
- Legal or financial consultation related to misuse of opioids

Quick Tips:

- **Opioids are highly addictive and may lead to misuse.**
- **If you suspect an overdose, call 911 immediately.**
- **LifeMatters can help you cope with opioid abuse. Call 24/7/365.**

1-800-634-6433

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