

FACTS ABOUT OPIOIDS

An estimated 90% of people suffering long-term pain are prescribed an opioid without knowing if the drugs help or are safe to use. Talk to your doctor before taking a prescription for opioids.*

*Source: consumerreports.org

STAY IN THE KNOW

PREVENTING SUBSTANCE MISUSE IN FREDERICK COUNTY



Frederick County Health Department

Visit StayInTheKnow.org/Opioids for
more information on opioid misuse



Talking with Your Doctor about Opioids

TAKING OPIOIDS: A CHECKLIST

Opioids (such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, codeine and morphine) are not right for everyone. They can have some very serious side effects. Ask your health care provider these questions BEFORE taking opioids.

- 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 medicine for anxiety, sleeping problems, or seizures?
- 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?