

Opioid medication safety guide

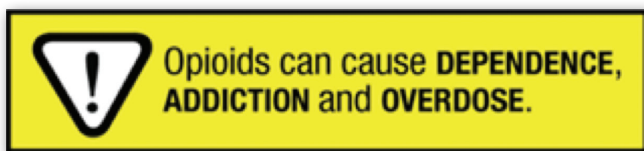
Important tips for families



Opioids are medications that can be used safely and effectively to manage pain. We want to give you clear information about how to use these important medications.

Examples of opioid medications include morphine, hydromorphone and oxycodone.

Health Canada requires us to put this warning sticker on your opioid medication containers, and give you the “Opioid Medicines - Information for Patients and Families” handout.



Do you want to discuss your medications during your stay at Holland Bloorview?

Speak with your:

- Pharmacist
- Doctor
- Nurse
- Nurse Practitioner

Tips for safe use of opioids



Follow instructions

There are risks with changing the timing or dose of medications. Follow the instructions on the medication label and any information from your prescriber.



Store safely

Keep your medication in a safe place. It should be out of reach and out of sight of children and pets.



Watch for side effects

Ask your healthcare team about things to watch out for while on medications.

Common side effects may include:

constipation, itchiness, nausea and vomiting, drowsiness

Significant side effects may include: Low blood pressure, shallow breathing, slow breathing



Read label carefully

Only use medications prescribed for you. If your name is not on the bottle, do not use the medication.



Return unused medications

Bring back all unused medications to your team at Holland Bloorview for safe disposal. Never share your unused medications with others.



Talk to your team

Contact your healthcare team if you have concerns or questions about:

- your pain
- your medications
- trying any new medications (prescribed or over-the-counter)
- any other concerns

Let them know right away!