

# What to ask your doctor before taking a prescribed opioid.

What should you ask?  
Start with:

- ✔ Why do I need this medication and how can I be sure it is right for me?
- ✔ What are the risks of using prescription opioids for pain, especially chronic pain?
- ✔ Are there non-opioid alternatives that could help with pain relief?
- ✔ How long should I take this medication?
- ✔ What if I have a history of addiction to tobacco, alcohol, or drugs or if there is a history of addiction in my family?

If your doctor (still) thinks your pain is best managed with a prescription opioid, then ask:

- ✔ Could this treatment interact with my other medicines, especially ones prescribed for anxiety, sleeping problems, or seizures?
- ✔ How can I reduce the risk of potential side effects from this medication?
- ✔ How should I store my opioid medication to prevent other people from taking it?
- ✔ What should I do with unused opioid medicine?
- ✔ Should I get a prescription for naloxone?

Space provided to take notes from your conversation with your doctor.

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# Take control of your health and reduce your risk of addiction.

Every patient or patient advocate should ask questions when receiving a prescription for an opioid pain medication.

If you are being prescribed an opioid, like hydrocodone, oxycodone, codeine, or morphine, ask if this is the right medication for you.

Take control of your health. Speak up, ask questions, and express concerns.

To learn more visit:  
[BeforeItsTooLate.Maryland.gov](http://BeforeItsTooLate.Maryland.gov)

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## Talk To Your Doctor

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