

FACTORS THAT INCREASE RISK OF OPIOID OVERDOSE

Opioid analgesics are an effective medical therapy for certain patients with severe and/or chronic pain. However, using these medications also comes with serious risks. It's important to work with your healthcare provider to ensure you are getting the safest, most effective care. Be aware of the following factors known to increase risk of opioid overdose:

- Taking opioid medication in greater amounts or more often than prescribed
- Taking high daily dosages of opioid medication
- Obtaining overlapping prescriptions from multiple providers and pharmacies
- Having mental illness and/or a history of alcohol or other substance abuse
- Family history of substance misuse or addiction to drugs or alcohol
- Living in rural areas and having low income
- Combining opioid medication with:
 - Alcohol
 - Benzodiazepines (e.g., Valium®, Xanax®)
 - Sedatives
 - Other opioids (prescription or illicit)