TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER ABUSE

- Discuss alternative pain management options with your doctor, physician, dentist or prescribing medical professional.
- Talk to your kids about the dangers of taking medications not prescribed for them, especially prescription painkillers.
- Take medicine only if it has been prescribed for you by your doctor, physician, dentist or prescribing medical professional.
- Take your medication only as directed. Never adjust your schedule or dosage yourself.
- Store your prescription painkillers securely – ideally, locked in a cabinet or drawer.
- Dispose of unused, expired or unwanted medication properly. For a list of Drug Take Back locations in Wisconsin, visit DoseOfRealityWI.gov.

For even more of a Dose of Reality with regard to prescription painkillers, talk with your doctor, dentist, pharmacist or prescribing medical professional, or visit DoseOfRealityWI.gov. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

DOSE OF REALITY

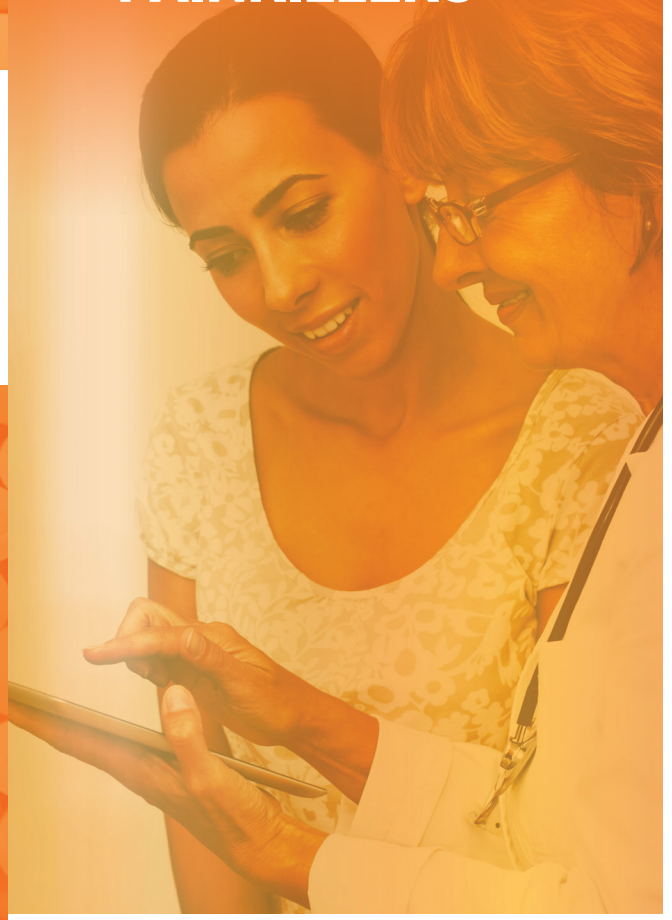
PREVENT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER ABUSE IN WISCONSIN.

Learn more at: DoseOfRealityWI.gov

A message from Wisconsin Department of Justice, Brad Schimel, Attorney General, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

WHAT PATIENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS



DOSE OF REALITY

PREVENT PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER ABUSE IN WISCONSIN.

MYTH: PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS ARE COMPLETELY SAFE BECAUSE THEY ARE PRESCRIBED BY A DOCTOR.

DOSE OF REALITY:

IN THE U.S., PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS ARE INVOLVED WITH MORE OVERDOSE DEATHS THAN HEROIN AND COCAINE COMBINED.

Doctors, physicians, dentists and prescribing medical professionals prescribe opioid painkillers like hydrocodone and oxycodone to help treat severe or chronic pain, but the truth is that the risk of addiction for these types of painkillers is high. However, there are effective painkillers available that do not include opioids. Talk with your prescribing medical professional about whether you should consider alternatives available to you and your family.

Common Opioids

Codeine
Various Brand Names

Fentanyl
Brand Names: Actiq®, Duragesic®, Sublimaze®

Hydrocodone
Brand Names: Vicodin®, Lortab®, Lorcet®

Morphine
Brand Names: Duramorph®, Roxanol®

Oxycodone
Brand Names: OxyContin®, Percodan®, Percocet®

MYTH: Older adults are the most likely to become addicted to prescription painkillers.

DOSE OF REALITY: Young people ages 12-25 are at the highest risk of becoming addicted to painkillers.

You may be surprised to learn that young people are the most at risk of becoming addicted to prescription painkillers. Young people believe that opioid painkillers are safe because they are prescribed by a doctor and they see their parents and other adults taking them. However, since 4 out of 5 heroin addicts start with abuse of prescription painkillers, it's important that teens and young adults become aware of their risks and dangers. Please be sure to share this Dose of Reality with them.

MYTH: Most people who are abusing prescription painkillers get them from their doctor, dentist or pharmacist.

DOSE OF REALITY: More than 70% of people abusing prescription painkillers get them through friends or relatives.

Most people in Wisconsin don't realize the risks and dangers of prescription painkillers, especially prescription opioids. It may seem harmless to share a pill with someone or to take one being offered, but remember that you may be innocently contributing to addiction or abuse.

Visit **DoseOfRealityWI.gov** for more information