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 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 pain management professional about whether you should consider alternatives available to you and your family.

Always follow safe prescription medication use tips...

- Do not share your prescription painkillers with anyone.
- Do not take someone else's prescription painkiller.
- Store your prescription painkillers securely.
- Safely dispose of expired, unused or unwanted medications – *a list of Drug Take Back locations can be found at DoseOfRealityWI.Gov*

When picking up a prescription...

Read and examine the label so you are aware of proper use and storage. Be aware of these prescription facts:

- The number of pills in the bottle must match the amount indicated on the label
- When refilling a prescription, the pills should look the same as the last batch.
- If you have questions about the ingredients, warnings, directions or anything else having to do with your prescription, ask the pharmacist while you're there.

When taking medication at home...

- Take your medications as directed. Never adjust your medication schedule or dosage yourself.
- Always double check the label to be sure you are taking the correct pill.
- Keep track of how many pills are left in bottles.

If something goes wrong...

- If you or someone you know has an adverse reaction to a prescription painkiller, call 9-1-1.
- If you miss a dose, call your doctor for instructions.
- If you take too large of a dose, or if you accidentally take the wrong medication, 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