

PRESCRIBING OPIOID PAINKILLERS IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

People sometimes misuse opioid painkillers, either by taking them in ways they weren't prescribed or by taking someone else's prescription. In New York City, one in four overdose deaths involve opioid painkillers. Our emergency department will only provide pain relief options that are safe and appropriate.

FOR YOUR SAFETY, WE DO NOT:

* Prescribe long-acting opioid painkillers.

Such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), morphine (MSContin®), fentanyl patches (Duragesic®) or methadone.

* Prescribe more than a short course of opioid painkillers.

3 days in most cases.

* Refill lost, stolen or destroyed prescriptions.



Prescription opioid painkillers can be just as dangerous as illegal drugs.

- Opioid painkillers can cause confusion, drowsiness and increased sensitivity to pain.
- People can become dependent on or addicted to opioid painkillers.
- An overdose of opioid painkillers can cause a person to stop breathing and die.



Keep your prescription opioid painkillers safe!

- Keep opioid painkillers in their original labeled containers.
- Keep opioid painkillers out of sight and out of reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet or on a high shelf.
- Get rid of opioid painkillers you are no longer using by flushing them down the toilet.

Problem with painkillers?

Help is available – call 1-800-LIFENET

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