

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Opioids are excellent analgesic or pain-relieving medications when used for short-term relief of pain. <sup>(4)</sup>
- Long-term use of Opioids can result in Opioid-induced hyperalgesia, a condition that makes patients more sensitive to pain. <sup>(4)</sup>
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises Opioids should not be prescribed for over 7 days at any given time. <sup>(2)</sup>
- Opioids should not be used as routine therapy for chronic pain. <sup>(2)</sup>
- A survey conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) concluded that roughly 80 percent of the world's supply of opiates is consumed by Americans. <sup>(3)</sup>
- In 2016, more Americans died from opioid overdoses than car crashes. Over 42,000 Americans died in 2016 equivalent to 116 persons each a day. <sup>(1)</sup>
- Drug overdose deaths are now the leading cause of injury death in the United States. <sup>(2)</sup>
- 40% of all opioid overdose deaths involve prescription opioids. <sup>(1)</sup>
- 3 out of 4 people who use heroin have misused prescription opioids prior to heroin use. <sup>(1)</sup>
- Prescribed opioids react in the brain the same as heroin or morphine. <sup>(4)</sup>
- Over two million Americans suffer from Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) meaning their bodies are physically dependent on Opioids. Severe withdraws symptoms can occur and professional assistance may be needed to discontinue use. <sup>(1)</sup>
- Only 20% of Americans diagnosed with OUD receive the specialized treatment. <sup>(1)</sup>
- In 2017, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared a public health emergency to address the Opioid Crisis in America. <sup>(6)</sup>
- The Opioid Crisis affects all Americans whether directly or indirectly.
- Opioid overdoses are 100% preventable.
- Recovery from OUD is possible

If you or loved one, has an opioid addiction problem talk to your provider today about Narcan.

NARCAN ® (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray is the first and only FDA-approved nasal form of naloxone for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose. NARCAN ® Nasal Spray counteracts the life-threatening effects of an opioid overdose.



## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

1. **CMS.GOV:** Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
2. **CDC.GOV:** Center for Disease Control and Prevention
3. **SAMHSA.GOV:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
4. **DRUGABUSE.GOV:** National Institute on Drug Abuse
5. **DEA.GOV:** United States Department of Drug Enforcement Administration
6. **HHS.GOV:** United States Department of Health and Human Services
7. **FDA.GOV:** United States Department of Food and Drug Administration
8. **LDH.LA.GOV:** Louisiana Department of Health

WHAT EVERY  
AMERICAN NEEDS  
TO KNOW ABOUT  
**OPIOIDS**

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND COUNSELING SERVICES PROVIDED:

**BASTROP** 518 Durham Street • (318) 283-8887

**MER ROUGE** 108 North 16th Street • (318) 239-8010

**MARION** 3150 Taylor Street • (318) 292-2795

*Substance abuse counseling services and Narcan kits are available at MCMC at a discount for those who qualify. Call us today for more information.*

**mcmcinc.org**

## COMMON PRESCRIPTION PAIN MEDICATIONS CONTAINING OPIOIDS:

- Hydrocodone (Vicodin®) oxycodone (OxyContin®, Percocet®)
- Oxycodone (Opana®)
- Morphine (Kadian®, Avinza®)
- Codeine
- Fentanyl (4)

## COMMON NAMES FOR ILLICIT AND ILLEGAL OPIOIDS:

- Heroin
- Illicitly manufactured Fentanyl (IMF) (Approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin)
- Carfentanil (Approximately 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 100 times more potent than fentanyl) (5)

## NEW DANGERS

- Carfentanil and Fentanyl present a serious risk to public safety for first responders, medical staff, and laboratory personnel. Some forms of the drug can be absorbed through the skin or accidentally inhaled. If encountered, exercise extreme caution including the use of gloves to handle due to extreme potency. (5)
- Carfentanil and Fentanyl are often mixed with Heroin or Cocaine to sell to unexpected users. The size of a grain of either Carfentanil or Fentanyl can prove fatal. (5)
- Overdose rates from synthetic opioids have increase since 1999 and overdose fatalities from Illicitly manufactured Fentanyl (IMF) now surpass both prescription opioids and heroin deaths. (2)

## HOW DO PEOPLE MISUSE PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS?

- taking the medicine in a way other than prescribed
- taking more than the prescribed dose
- taking someone else's prescription medicine
- taking the medicine for the effect it causes-to get high (4)



## DANGER TO SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- Older adults are at higher risk of accidental misuse or abuse due to typically having multiple prescriptions and chronic diseases. These factors increase the risk of drug-drug and drug-disease interaction. A slowed metabolism can affect the breakdown of drugs. (4)



## MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)

- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is considered the Standard of Care and considered Best Practice of treating OUD by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration SAMHSA. (3)
- MAT medications are safe and effective when taken as prescribed. (3)
- Approved MAT medications by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) include Methadone, Buprenorphine, and Naltrexone. (7)
- Naloxone is an FDA approved medication used to reverse Opioid overdose effects and has proven to save lives when administered in a timely manner. (7)
- In 2017, the Louisiana Department of Health issued a standing order allowing pharmacists to dispense Naloxone to laypeople including caregivers, family and friends of an opioid user to assist in preventing an overdose fatality. (8)

## TOLERANCE VS. DEPENDENCE VS. ADDICTION

- Long-term use of prescription opioids, even as prescribed by a doctor, can cause users to develop a tolerance, meaning that a higher and/or more frequent doses of the drug is needed to get the desired effects.
- Drug dependence occurs with repeated use of the drug, causing changes in the brain which require the drug for normal brain functioning. The absence of the drug causes several withdraw symptoms and is potentially life threatening.
- Drug addiction is defined as a chronic disease characterized by compulsive, or uncontrollable, drug seeking behaviors despite harmful consequence. Long-lasting changes in the brain are a result of continued use to those who misuse drugs, whether prescription or illicit drugs. (4)