

Sample Emergency Department Aftercare Instructions

OPIOID PAIN MEDICINE

You have been prescribed an opioid for pain relief. These drugs are either combined with acetaminophen (Tylenol® #3, Percocet®, Vicodin®) or used on their own. Opioids act on the central nervous system to reduce pain.

THESE MEDICATIONS CAN SLOW OR STOP YOUR BREATHING, PARTICULARLY IF TAKEN IN LARGER AMOUNTS OR FOR LONGER THAN PRESCRIBED. DO NOT EXCEED THE PRESCRIBED DOSE.

Misuse of these medications can cause addiction, overdose, or death, especially if used in children or by a person taking this medication without a prescription. Avoid drinking alcohol, driving a car, or operating dangerous equipment when using one of these medications.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:

Nausea, vomiting, heartburn, constipation, dizziness, drowsiness, and/or mood changes. Take your medicine with meals or a full glass of water to help lessen stomach irritation.

Opioids impair your mental alertness and physical abilities.

SPECIAL NOTE(S)

- This medicine may impair your ability to drive a car or operate dangerous equipment. Avoid these activities while taking this medication.
- Please keep all medicine out of the reach of children, adolescents, and any individuals who may be at risk for taking your personal medications without your consent.
- If you were prescribed an opioid medication that contains acetaminophen, you should not take additional medications containing acetaminophen (Tylenol®). Consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

Stop taking your medicine and return to the emergency department or contact your doctor should any of the following occur:

- Symptoms of an allergic reaction (itching, rash, hives, wheezing, and/or breathing difficulty).

Bothersome side effects.