



Rx Pain Medications

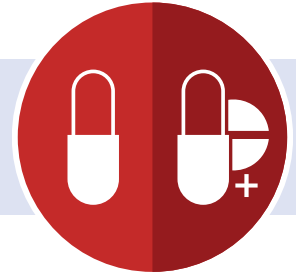
KNOW THE OPTIONS • GET THE FACTS

Dangerous Drug Interactions

Please consult your health care provider before using prescription pain medications with other substances.

Did you know...

According to the CDC, about one-half of deaths from prescription pain medications involve the use of at least one other drug.¹



Mixing opioids with other substances can cause dangerous side effects, including breathing trouble, coma, and even permanent brain damage or death.^{2,3}

If you are taking prescription pain medications, do NOT take the following without first talking to your health care provider:

- **Alcohol** (including beer, wine, and liquor)
- **Antihistamines** (including allergy medications such as Benadryl®)
- **Cough medicine/cough syrup**
- **Barbiturates and benzodiazepines** (often used as sleeping pills and sedatives, such as Ambien®, Xanax®, and Valium®)
- **General anesthetics** (often used for surgery)



To find more information on safer, more effective pain management in the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Call 9-1-1 or the National Poison Help number at 1-800-222-1222.



¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Drugs most frequently involved in drug overdose deaths: United States, 2010–2014. *National Vital Statistics Report* 65(10).

² National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2016). Misuse of prescription drugs: Is it safe to use opioid drugs with other medications? Retrieved from <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/prescription-drugs/opioids/it-safe-to-use-opioid-drugs-other-medications>

³ National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2017). Drug facts: Prescription pain medications (Opioids). *NIDA for Teens*. Retrieved from <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/prescription-pain-medications-opioids>