



Your Guide to Taking Oxycodone Safely

Please read this handout carefully and share it with your family.

What I Need to Know to Safely Take Oxycodone

- ❖ It is very important that you understand the safety risks of taking Oxycodone.
- ❖ Oxycodone is a strong pain reliever for moderate to severe pain.
- ❖ Taking Oxycodone with other prescribed or over-the-counter medicines can be harmful or cause death.
- ❖ Taking Oxycodone incorrectly can be harmful or cause death.
- ❖ Tell your physician if you have or have ever had hypothyroidism, Addison's disease, urethral structure, prostatic hypertrophy, kidney, lung, or liver disease.
- ❖ Tell your physician if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast feeding. If you become pregnant, call your physician.

Ask your doctor before you take any of the following:

- ❖ Sleeping pills or sleep aids
- ❖ Sedatives (drugs or herbs)
- ❖ Pain medicine
- ❖ Allergy and sinus medicine with antihistamines
- ❖ Cold and cough medicine with antihistamines
- ❖ Medicine for anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, or muscle relaxers
- ❖ Medicine for nausea or motion sickness

Oxycodone often has over-the-counter pain relievers like acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil®) in it. Ask your doctor if it is safe for you to take these over-the-counter medicines. Taking too much of these can severely harm you.

If you are allergic to aspirin, tell your doctor. Do not take any aspirin and Oxycodone combination products.

What I Need to Do to Safely Take Oxycodone?

- ❖ Have only one doctor prescribe Oxycodone for you.
- ❖ Tell this doctor all of the prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines (including aspirin, vitamins, etc.), and herbs you are taking. Your doctor needs to know this to prescribe a safe dose for you.
- ❖ Talk to your doctor if you are worried about becoming addicted to Oxycodone.
- ❖ Take Oxycodone only as prescribed.
- ❖ Tell all of your other doctors that you are taking Oxycodone. Unless they know this, they might prescribe a medicine that can cause dangerous side effects.
- ❖ Use only one pharmacy for your pain medicines.
- ❖ Ask your pharmacists to print out a list of all of your medicine and keep a copy with you.
- ❖ If you have questions or concerns, call the doctor who prescribed Oxycodone or talk to your pharmacist.

TIPS TO KEEP TRACK OF HOW MUCH OXYCODONE YOU TAKE

TIP

Bring all your prescribed and over-the-counter medicines with you to each doctor visit. If possible, bring a family member with you.

Write down what time you take each dose of Oxycodone. This will help you keep track and avoid taking too much.

If you have trouble remembering, ask a family member or someone you trust to help keep track of when you take Oxycodone.

Take a missed dose as soon as you remember; however, if it is almost time for the next dose, you should skip the missed dose.



IF YOU TAKE THE OXYCODONE LIQUID

- ❖ Ask your pharmacist for a marked spoon or a dropper. This will help you take the right amount.
- ❖ Do not use a household spoon to measure the dose. It is not the right size and may cause you to take the wrong amount.

IF YOU TAKE THE OXYCODONE PILL

- ❖ **Do not crush, split, or change the pill in any way. The pill has a coating to help it dissolve slowly. Changing the pill will change how fast it dissolves. This may cause an overdose and possibly death.**

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Oxycodone should be used with extreme caution if you have chronic breathing problems like COPD or asthma. Talk to your doctor before taking Oxycodone if you have any chronic lung conditions.

What Should I Do If I Want to Cut Down or Stop Taking Oxycodone?

- ❖ Tell your doctor if you want to cut down your dose.
- ❖ Your doctor will tell you how to gradually reduce your dose. This will help prevent uncomfortable withdrawal problems like diarrhea, body aches, weakness, restlessness, anxiety, shaking, or loss of appetite.
- ❖ If you have been taking Oxycodone for longer than two weeks, do not stop taking it on your own! Ask your doctor how to stop taking it.





Side Effects

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU HAVE THESE COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:

- ❖ Constipation — Ask your doctor or pharmacist about ways to treat constipation. You may have to try several ways before you find what works for you. Reducing the Oxycodone dose will not help your constipation.
- ❖ Nausea or upset stomach

Other side effects:

- ❖ Feeling light-headed
- ❖ Dizziness
- ❖ Itching
- ❖ Heavy sweating
- ❖ Dry mouth
- ❖ Drowsiness
- ❖ Loud or unusual snoring
- ❖ Loss of sexual desire
- ❖ Headache
- ❖ Vomiting

TIP

It is usually best to take Oxycodone with food to avoid an upset stomach.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Some medicines may cause drowsiness. These include medicines for allergies, coughs colds, sleeping, anxiety, or pain. Ask your doctor before taking these medicines with Oxycodone.



Side Effects

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR TODAY IF YOU HAVE THESE SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS:

- ❖ Confusion
- ❖ Mood changes (depression or agitation)
- ❖ Shaking
- ❖ Blurred vision
- ❖ Difficulty urinating
- ❖ Allergic reactions like rashes, hives, or swelling
- ❖ Hallucinations and yellowing of the skin

GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM OR HAVE SOMEONE CALL 911 IF YOU HAVE THESE DANGEROUS SIDE EFFECTS:

- ❖ Loss of consciousness (fainting)
- ❖ Have trouble being awakened
- ❖ Difficult or slow breathing
- ❖ Fast heartbeat
- ❖ Unusual dizziness
- ❖ Very slow or fast heartbeat

TIP

Tell your family or caregivers about these warning signs that indicate you may be reacting badly to Oxycodone.

Will I Become Dependent on Oxycodone?

After a while, Oxycodone causes physical dependence. Physical dependence means if you suddenly stop taking this drug, you may have uncomfortable withdrawal symptoms.

These include:

- ❖ Diarrhea
- ❖ Body aches (feeling like you have the flu)
- ❖ Weakness
- ❖ Restlessness
- ❖ Anxiety
- ❖ Loss of appetite

It may take several days before you notice these symptoms. If you or anyone in your family has a history of alcohol or drug problems, tell your doctor. If you are worried about becoming addicted to Oxycodone, talk to your doctor.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Oxycodone can cause serious drug dependence. It has the potential for being abused. Over time, you may require increasing amounts to get the same level of pain control.

Where Should I Keep My Oxycodone?

- ❖ Keep Oxycodone tightly closed in a childproof container and out of reach of children.
 - ❖ Keep it in a dry, cool place where only you or your caregiver knows about. Do not keep it in your bathroom, on kitchen counters, or where people can see it.
 - ❖ Do not tell people other than your doctor or someone you trust that you are on Oxycodone.
 - ❖ Never give your Oxycodone to anyone.
 - ❖ Just one pill of Oxycodone can be harmful or fatal to some people.
- ❖ **REMEMBER**
 - ❖ *Take only the amount of Oxycodone your doctor prescribed.*
 - ❖ *Make sure all of your doctors know that you are taking Oxycodone.*
 - ❖ *Read, understand, and follow all the instructions your doctor gives you and those in this pamphlet. Share this information with your caregiver.*
 - ❖ *Do not give your Oxycodone to anyone.*

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

If you take extra Oxycodone, or take it more often than prescribed, it can be harmful or cause death.

If you take Oxycodone with some other prescription or over-the-counter drugs or alcohol, it can be harmful or cause death.

Work with your doctor to find out the safest and most effective way to take Oxycodone.

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