

## Opioid safety information

Opioid pain medications are morphine-like substance.

- Time-released pain medications are designed to work properly only if swallowed whole, and taking cut, broken, chewed, crushed, or dissolved opioid pain medications tablets can result in fatal drug overdose.
- Report adverse experiences or episodes of increased pain during therapy to assist in determining the optimal use of this medication.
- Do not adjust the dose or dosing interval

(time between doses) unless directed by me or my associates.

- Opioid pain medications may impair mental and/or physical ability required for the performance of potentially hazardous tasks, including driving or operating machinery.
- Do not combine opioid pain medications with alcohol or other central nervous system depressants (such as sedatives or sleep-aids) except by the orders of myself or my associates, because dangerous additive effects may occur resulting in serious injury or death.
- If female and of childbearing age, or pregnant, or planning to become pregnant, consult me or my associates and consult the treating family or obstetric physician regarding the effects of analgesics and other drug use upon the patient and unborn child.
- Opioid pain medications are drugs with known abuse, theft, and diversion potential and so should be protected and never given to anyone other than the individual for whom it was prescribed.
- Opioid pain medications under most circumstances should not be discontinued abruptly and its cessation might best be tapered, due to risk of precipitating withdrawal (abstinence) symptoms.
- Opioid pain medications should be kept in a secure place, especially out of the reach of children, and when no longer needed the un-used tablets should be destroyed by flushing down the toilet.

### Avoiding interactions with other medications:

- If any physician prescribes to you a medication that can decrease the metabolism of opioid pain medications such as a macrolide antibiotic (e.g. erythromycin or azithromycin), an anti-fungal drug (such as ketoconazole), or a protease inhibitor (e.g. Ritonavir), contact me or my associates for direction regarding reducing your opioid pain medications dose to avoid possible opioid overdose.
- If any physician prescribes to you a medication that can increase the metabolism of opioid pain medications such as rifampin, carbamazepine,

or phenytoin, contact me or my associates for direction regarding possibly increasing your opioid pain medications dose to avoid possible loss of analgesic effect and/or withdrawal symptoms.