



Dental Pain and Safety

What You Should Know About Opioids

If you - or your teenager - have pain after wisdom tooth or other oral surgery, your dentist might prescribe medication to help. It's important to know that some medications, known as opioids, can lead to addiction if they're not used properly. Here are some ways to help keep you and your family members safe:

Try a non-opioid medication first. You can take a pain reliever like ibuprofen or acetaminophen before trying an opioid. If you still have pain, tell your dentist.

Tell your dentist about past drug use. If you or your teenager have ever been addicted to drugs or alcohol, let your dentist know.

Ask for a shorter prescription. Talk to your dentist about getting no more pills than needed to treat pain.

Never share pills. Only the person whose name is on the prescription label should take an opioid.

Keep opioids out of reach. Store your pills where other people can't get to them.

Get rid of leftover pills safely. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of leftover opioids in a safe way. Or visit the U.S. Food and Drug Administration at www.fda.gov for information.

Learn more about opioids at cdc.gov/overdose.

Visit deltadentalri.com to learn more about taking care of your teeth and gums.