

**PRESCRIBED NARCOTIC PAINKILLERS
 CAN BE ADDICTIVE!**

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Prescribed Narcotic Painkillers: Although they may be medically indicated for the control of pain and can be safe when taken as prescribed, prescribed narcotic painkillers (i.e., pain relievers, opioids, narcotics, etc.) are drugs with high abuse potential. Chronic use of these drugs can result in both dependence and increased tolerance. For example, you may find that the drug no longer works for you at the prescribed dosage, and you may feel you need to take more of the drug to give you the same relief. If this happens, contact your doctor, do not simply take more medication. *A side effect of prescribed narcotic painkillers is a feeling of euphoria. It is this side effect that makes these drugs highly sought after by those wishing to free themselves from painful emotions.*

Common Prescribed Narcotic Painkiller Products Include: Actiq Lozenges/Duragesic Patches (Fentanyl), Anexia/Lorcet/Lortab/Maxidone/Norco/Vicodin/Zydone (Hydrocodone + Acetaminophen), Avinza/Kadian/MS Contin/M-Eslon/MSIR/Oramorph SR/Roxanol/Statex (Morphine), Buprenex (Buprenorphine), Capital with Codeine suspension/Tylenol with Codeine (Codeine + Acetaminophen), Darvocet/Wygesic (Propoxyphene + Acetaminophen), Darvon-N/Darvon Pulvules (Propoxyphene), Darvon Compound-65 Pulvules (Propoxyphene + ASA + Caffeine), Demerol (Meperidine), Dilaudid (Hydromorphone), Dolophine/Methadose (Methadone), Empirin with Codeine (ASA + Caffeine + Frosst 292), Endocodone/OxyContin/OxyFAST/OxyLR/Percolone/Roxicodone/Supeudol (Oxycodone), Floricet with Codeine (Acetaminophen + Butalbital + Caffeine + Codeine), Fiorinal with Codeine (ASA + Butalbital + Caffeine + Codeine), Levo-Dromoran (Levorphanol), Nubain (Nalbuphine), Numorphan (Oxymorphone), Percocet/Roxicet/Tylox (Oxycodone + Acetaminophen), Percodan (Oxycodone + ASA), Soma Compound with Codeine (Carisoprodol + ASA + Codeine), Stadol/Stadol NS (Butorphanol), Talacen (Pentazocine + Acetaminophen), Talwin/Talwin NX (Pentazocine), Vicoprofen (Hydrocodone + Ibuprofen), or other similar products.

Prescribed Narcotic Painkiller Warnings: Because these drugs may make you drowsy, less alert, and/or unable to function well physically, you should take precautions. Do not drive a car, operate machinery, or perform any other potentially dangerous activities while taking prescribed narcotic painkillers. Do not drink alcohol while taking prescribed narcotic painkillers — the side effects of the painkiller can be increased. Do not take other drugs while taking prescribed narcotic painkillers without your doctor's approval. If prescribed narcotic painkillers are taken with certain other drugs, the effects of either may be increased, decreased, or altered. It is especially important to check with your doctor before combining these drugs with the following: antianxiety drugs (i.e., Valium, Ubrium, Xanax, Klonopin, etc.), antidepressants — Tricyclics (i.e., Elavil, Tofranil, etc.), other antidepressants — MAO inhibitors (i.e., Nardil, Parnate, etc.), antihistamines (i.e., Benedryl, Tavist, etc.), major tranquilizers (i.e., Thorazine, Haldol, etc.), other narcotic painkillers, and other central nervous system depressants (i.e., Halcion, Restoril, Ambien, Dalmane, etc.). Your doctor prescribing these drugs should know if you are pregnant, breast feeding, or have any medical problems, including: trouble breathing, lung problems, head injury, liver or kidney problems, adrenal gland problems (i.e. Addison's Disease), convulsions/seizures, alcoholism, hallucinations or other severe mental problems, or any past or present substance abuse or drug addiction.

Prescribed Narcotic Painkiller Abuse: Prescription drug abuse is the term commonly used to describe the excessive and harmful usage of prescribed drugs. A prescribed narcotic painkiller is abused if not taken exactly as prescribed. You should not increase the amount or frequency without your doctor's approval. You should not take this drug for any reason other than the one prescribed. You should not give this drug to others who may have similar symptoms. Prescribed narcotic painkillers are only meant to be taken for physical pain relief, not for emotional pain relief.

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Prescribed Narcotic Painkiller Overdose: Any medication taken in excess can have serious consequences. A severe overdose of prescribed narcotic painkillers can be fatal. If you suspect an overdose, seek emergency medical treatment immediately. Symptoms of an overdose include: blood disorders, bluish tinge to skin, cold and clammy skin, extreme sleepiness progressing to a state of unresponsiveness or coma, general feeling of bodily discomfort, heart problems, heavy perspiration, kidney problems, limp muscles, liver failure, low blood pressure, nausea, slow heartbeat, troubled or slowed breathing, and/or vomiting.

Prescribed Narcotic Painkiller Withdrawal: Stopping these drugs suddenly will bring on symptoms of withdrawal. Initial withdrawal symptoms usually begin within hours of the last dose and may include: cravings, running nose, excessive sweating, insomnia, and violent yawning. Those who have been addicted to prescribed narcotic painkillers for a long time may progress to severe withdrawal symptoms, including: chills, fever, muscle spasms, abdominal pain, seizures, and coma. Consult your doctor for instructions on how to stop these drugs slowly, to avoid uncomfortable symptoms.

Symptoms of Addiction of Prescribed Narcotic Painkillers: The following are symptoms of addiction: showing relief from anxiety, changes in mood from a sense of well-being to belligerence, false feelings of self-confidence, increased sensitivity to sights and sounds — including hallucinations: altered activity levels — such as sleeping for 12 to 14 hours or hyperactive activity lasting for hours, unpleasant or painful symptoms when the substance is withdrawn, and preoccupation with running out of pills.

Other Prescription Drugs that Are Addictive: Librium (Chlordiazepoxide), Klonopin/Rivotril (Clonazepam), Tranxene (Clorazepate), Valium (Diazepam), Dalmane (Flurazepam), Pro-Som (Estazolam), Ativan (Lorazepam), Restoril (Temazepam), Xanax (Alprazolam), Serax (Oxazepam), Halcion (Triazolam), Buspar (Buspirone), Somnote/Aquachloral Suppettes (Chloral Hydrate), Benedryl/Banaril/Aliermax/Diphen/Dytuss/Sominex/Tusstat/Truxadryl (Diphenhydramine), Nembutal (Pentobarbital), Sonata/Starnoc (Zaleplon), Ambien (Zolpidem), Limbitrol (Chlordiazepoxide + Amitriptyline), Dexedrine (Amphetamine), Desoxyn/speed (Methamphetamine), Soma (Carisoprodol), any unspecified benzodiazepine, any unspecified sleeping pill, or other medications not mentioned above, but similar to the above.

Resources: If you suspect that you are becoming addicted to prescribed narcotic painkillers, speak with your doctor prescribing the medications immediately, and contact the following resources:

1. Narcotics Anonymous (NA), World Service Office in Los Angeles, P.O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409, at (818) 700-9999, or visit www.na.org
2. American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), 4601 North Park Ave., Arcade Suite 101, Chevy Chase, M.D. 20815, at (301) 656-3920, or visit www.asam.org
3. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at 1-800-662-HELP, or visit www.nida.nih.gov

By signing below I am declaring that I have received, read, and understood the above information regarding the addictive properties and warnings of prescribed narcotic painkillers, and will take my prescribed narcotic painkillers exactly as prescribed.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____