

# 12 Questions

## TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE TAKING OPIOIDS

Whether you've had surgery or are preparing to have surgery, you may be concerned that your doctor will prescribe you opioids. To successfully manage your pain while minimizing addiction risks, it's imperative to discuss all of your options with your physician and ask as many questions as possible before taking an opioid medication. Print out this list of questions to bring to your next appointment as a starting point when talking to your doctor:

1

Why are you prescribing me an opioid?

5

Are there any side effects from this medication? If so, how can I reduce or prevent them?

9

Should I start with a shorter prescription or fewer pills?

2

Is this the right medication for me?

6

Is there a possibility that I will get addicted to this medication?

10

Are there any non-opioids that I can take as an alternative?

3

How long should I take this medication?

7

I have a history of substance use disorder. Should I still take an opioid?

11

I am currently taking other prescription drugs. Is it safe to take opioids with other medication?

4

How will this medication make me feel?

8

Addiction runs in my family, should I take this medication?

12

After I've finished this medication, how can I discard it?

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