Preventing Opioid Abuse



Tackling the national opioid crisis requires ongoing collaboration across the dental, medical, law enforcement and education communities. Yet the most powerful partnerships may be the ones between patients and medical and dental providers.

Opioids include addictive prescription painkillers such as oxycodone, codeine, morphine and others.

Patients have the power—and the responsibility—to guard against opioid misuse. Patients should:

- Share medical history with your health care providers, including any history of drug use or addiction.
- Update medication list to help your dentist and doctor assess interactions between medicines.
- Take medications only as prescribed.
- Discuss alternative pain management strategies.
- Keep all medications away from children.
- Make sure teens are using painkilling medications only as prescribed.
- Never share medications with others.

Did you know?

Teenagers are often prescribed opioids when they have wisdom teeth removed.

Quick bites

Tips to remember when you have opioids or other prescriptions at home:

- Often, opioid abuse happens because someone other than the patient uses the drug, so proper disposal of medications is critical.
- Some medications come with disposal directions, including whether they can be flushed down a toilet or disposed of in household trash.
- If you have questions, pharmacists can explain how to safely dispose of medications.
- Many communities have prescription drop-off days at police stations or city halls. In addition, the Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration maintains a database of drop-off locations. Go to bit.ly/disposalsite to search by ZIP code or city.

DELTA DENTAL®

Visit us online for more information on oral and overall health!

Healthy Smile, Happy Life

Delta Dental of Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, and Tennessee

RC-6453 v3 PA 9/18