

Poll Questions

July/August 2018

Older Adults' Experiences with Opioid Prescriptions

Questions were answered by respondents age 50-80.



The following questions are about opioid pain medications, such as Vicodin, OxyContin, and Percocet. These are medications that require a prescription (they do not include medications like Tylenol, Aleve or Motrin).

Q1. Have you filled a prescription for pain medication for yourself?

1. Yes, within the last year
2. Yes, 1-2 years ago
3. Yes, 3 or more years ago
4. No

If Q1= 1 or 2

Q2. What was the cause of the pain? Select all that apply

1. Injury/accident
2. Arthritis/back pain
3. Dental problems
4. Surgery
5. Chronic pain (such as fibromyalgia/nerve pain)
6. Nerve related pain
7. Headaches
8. Cancer-related
9. Illness-related (other than cancer)
10. Other

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If Q1= 1 or 2

Q3. Did the health care provider prescribing the pain medication talk with you about:

	Yes	No	Don't know
How often to take the pain medication			
Side effects			
When to reduce the amount of pain medication			
Risk of addiction			
Risk of overdose			
What to do with leftover pills			

If Q1= 1 or 2

Q4. Did the pharmacist talk with you about:

	Yes	No	Don't know
How often to take the pain medication			
Side effects			
When to reduce the amount of pain medication			
Risk of addiction			
Risk of overdose			
What to do with leftover pills			

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If Q1= 1 or 2

Q5. Which of the following are true with your most recent pain medication prescription?

	True	False
I took pain medication other than how it was prescribed (more frequently and/or higher dose)		
I tried to take pain medication less often, or in a lower amount than prescribed		
A family member helped make sure I didn't take too much pain medication		
I switched to a non-opioid pain medication as soon as possible		

If Q1= 1 or 2

Q6. Did you have any leftover prescription pain medication?

1. Yes
2. No

If Q6= 1

Q7. What did you do with the leftover your pain medication?

	Yes	No
Saved for when I have pain again		
Threw in the trash		
Flushed down the toilet		
Returned to the pharmacy/health care provider's office		
Returned to law enforcement/community "takeback" event		
Kept at home - didn't do anything		
Other		
Don't remember		

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Q1= 3 or 4 OR if Q6= 2

Q8. What would you do with leftover prescription pain medication?

	Yes	No
Save it for when I have pain again		
Throw in the trash		
Flush it down the toilet		
Return to the pharmacy/health care provider's office		
Return to law enforcement/community "takeback" event		
Keep it at home - wouldn't do anything		
Other		

All respondents

There is a new product to help with safe disposal of leftover pain medication. It is a powder that is poured into the bottle of leftover pills and mixed with water; after shaking for 30 seconds, the medication bottle can be safely put into the trash.

Q9. If you were given this product when you picked up your pain medication from the pharmacy, would you use it for leftover medication?

1. Definitely would use it
2. Maybe would use it
3. Would probably not use it

If Q9= 2 or 3

Q10. Why might you NOT use it?

1. Might lose the product before I'm ready to dispose of leftover medication
2. Would rather save the medication for future use
3. Would rather use another method for disposing leftover medication
4. Other

If Q9= 1, 2 or 3

Q11. If you had to pay \$5-10 for this product, how likely would you be to purchase it?

1. Very likely
2. Somewhat likely
3. Not likely

Poll Questions

All respondents

Q12. Please indicate whether or not you would support the following:

	Strongly support	Support	Do not support
Limit total number of days and pain pills that health care providers can prescribe.			
Require health care providers to review patient's prescription records before prescribing pain pills.			
Require patients to tell health care providers about pain medication use before prescribing pain pills.			
Require patients to return unused pain pills to their health care provider or a pharmacy.			
Require special training in order to prescribe or dispense pain pills.			

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