



GEORGIA
ORTHOPAEDIC
SOCIETY

ADVOCACY RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

OPIOIDS KILL. DISPOSE SAFELY.

**GA SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOTLINE:
1-800- 338-6745**

**Unused opioid must be disposed of
in a safe and responsible way.**

Closest dropbox to this office is:

Place unused pills in a disposal unit in a pharmacy or police station. Find a disposal site near you at: www.stoprxabuseinga.org

If no medicine take-back program is available in your area, you can flush them down the toilet or follow these simple steps to dispose of medicines in the household trash:

- Mix medicines (do NOT crush tablets or capsules) with an unpalatable substance such as kitty litter or used coffee grounds
- Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag; and throw the container in your household trash
- Before throwing out your empty pill bottle, remember to scratch out all information on the label to make it unreadable

OPIOID FACTS

Understanding Prescription Opioids

Opioids are natural or synthetic chemicals that relieve pain by binding to receptors in your brain or body to reduce the intensity of pain signals reaching the brain. Opioid pain medications are sometimes prescribed by doctors to treat pain. Common types include:

- Hydrocodone (e.g. Vicodin, Lortab)
- Oxycodone (e.g. Oxycontin, Percocet)
- Oxycodone (e.g. Opana)
- Morphine (e.g. Ms Contin)

Opioids can have serious risks including addiction and death from overdose

115

on average, number of
Americans that die from
opioid overdose daily

Source: CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

5X

increase in opioid related
overdose deaths from
1999 to 2016

42K

opioids were involved
in 42,249 deaths
in 2016



SAFE USE

**Improper use of pain medicine
is a leading cause of accidental
death**

- Combining opioids with alcohol or other drugs increases risk of death
- Take medications only as prescribed. Never take more than instructed. Never take someone else's medicine. Never give or sell your medicine to someone else
- Combining opioids with medicines used to calm anxiety can result in overdose
- Using opioids for something other than pain (anxiety, sleep, fear of pain, to feel good) can create a harmful dependence/addiction

SAFE STORAGE

**Unused medicines in your home
are at risk for inappropriate use**

- Pain relievers are a leading cause of serious poisoning of children and pets when they are left where others can get them
- Hide or lock up opioid medications to avoid access by family, friends, or house guests
- Keep prescription medications in their original packaging so it is clear for whom the medications were prescribed and to save the directions for appropriate use