

Due to a dental procedure, you have been prescribed prescription opioids.

Ask your dentist or pharmacist the following questions before filling your opioid prescription.

- What is the goal of this prescription?
- When and how should I take this prescription?
- Are there any risks associated with this prescription?
- What do I do with the extra medication?

Opioids are widely used and effective in controlling postoperative pain, but their use poses risks that are important to understand.

Abusing opioids is extremely dangerous. To make opioids a safe and effective pain management tool, there are three steps you can take.

- Monitor
- Safely secure
- Dispose

Monitor: Be aware of the prescription medications currently in your home. Take note of how many pills are in each of your prescription bottles or pill packets, and keep track of refills.

Safely secure: Store the prescription safely out of sight and our or reach from children in a locked cabinet. Put the medication back immediately after taking any dose.

Dispose: Dispose of unused, unwanted or expired prescription medications safely and immediately to reduce the risk of another person taking these drugs for non-medical reasons.

To find a disposal site, visit: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/ensuring-safe-use-medicine/safe-disposal-medicines>

