

Serious addiction can start with a simple prescription.

You may have noticed a change in how we use opioid medicines for pain. These drugs include oxycodone, Oxycontin®, hydromorphone, fentanyl and morphine. Here's why we made the change:

- In 2015 in Pennsylvania, 10 people a day died of drug poisoning with prescription opioids/ heroin use
- We now know that opioids are not as effective or as safe as we once thought they were for chronic pain
- Too many of our prescribed meds are making it into the hands of those they were not meant for – including our youth
- We cannot know who may develop problems with these medicines
- We are committed to work together to keep our patients, their families and the community safe from prescription pain medication and heroin misuse and poisonings



You can help us by taking these actions:

- Ask about non-opioid care for your pain
- Lock up your medicines at all times and safely dispose of left over medicines
- Know that you may be asked to sign a controlled substance agreement and have urine drug screens and pill counts
- Let your doctor or pharmacist know if you have any problems especially if you are worried about misuse of your medicine – **we can help**



For more information, visit

www.opioidaware.org

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Physicians, Dentists and
Pharmacists working together
to enhance your quality of life**



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