

Middlesex County Dental Society

Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council

Patient Name: _____



Think your teenager is old enough to handle this prescription on his or her own?

Think again! This prescription contains an opioid drug that is chemically similar to OxyContin or heroin. It is a very effective pain reliever. But in the absence of pain it can give the user a “high.” To keep your child healthy follow three steps:

MONITOR

Even though this medication was prescribed, it may not be necessary. Ask your child’s doctor whether a less dangerous, over-the-counter (OTC) product can be tried first, and if so, how to safely use the prescribed medication with it. OTC medicines include Motrin, Aleve, Advil, and Tylenol.

Some people have a strong, positive reaction to opioids. They like the way the drug makes them feel. *If your child seems to enjoy an opioid medication, this is a warning sign.* It can signal a predisposition to substance misuse and abuse. Talk to your doctor if this happens.

SECURE

Keep this medicine “under lock and key.” Keep it OUT of the bathroom medicine cabinet, in a secure place known only to you. Remember, teens like to experiment. They like to share with friends. Don’t allow experimentation!

DISPOSE

When your teen no longer needs this medication, discard it responsibly. Crush the pills and hide them in your household garbage, or bring to a medication drop-box. All garbage in Connecticut is incinerated – it is the safe way to dispose of unwanted prescriptions.
