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Understanding Opioid Pain Meds

Understanding **OPIOID PAIN** Medications

Common names: Morphine, Norco, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Fentanyl, Methadone

How will this medication help



It decreases pain

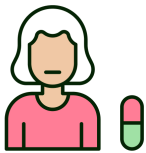



With less pain you can be more active



It can decrease shortness of breath

How to take



Take it by mouth -  [Click here](#)

Generally can be taken every 4-6 hours depending on medication

Your nurse will let you know how many times per day it can be taken

When will it work



It can start working in about **30 MINUTES**

There is a liquid preparation of morphine that can work faster

Common side effects



Constipation - Your nurse will tell you which laxative you should be taking



Sleepiness and confusion - This should improve with time



Do not drink alcohol, drive a car, or operate machinery while using



Itching is not uncommon. Generally it does not mean an allergic reaction. Ask your nurse about medications that can help

Serious side effects - **Call Hospice**



Unintended ability to wake up or stay awake



A worrisome decrease in breathing or the number of breaths per minute (less than 10)



Painful stomach cramps or inability to have a bowel movement

> **LAXATIVES SHOULD ALWAYS BE TAKEN IF USING OPIOID PAIN MEDICATIONS**
(unless told otherwise by the Hospice Team)