



Myth (Wrong)

- ✗ Opioid pain medications should be saved and used only when pain is severe
- ✗ If Opioid pain medication is stopped they will go through severe withdrawal
- ✗ If someone in hospice takes opioid pain medications they will become addicted
- ✗ An individual will develop tolerance to pain medication and it will stop working

Fact (Correct)

- ✓ Pain medication should be given on a regular basis to keep ease pain and to avoid unnecessary suffering
- ✓ Most people in hospice care will continue to need some dose of opioids so withdrawal should not happen
- ✓ Addiction is the compulsive use of drugs for their psychological effects. Use for pain at this stage of life is not addictive
- ✓ Tolerance can happen gradually, but the dose can be slowly increased safely, and the medication will continue to work to ease pain and suffering

