

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

