



- Otolaryngology
- Head & Neck Surgery
- Ear, Nose & Throat
- In-Office Balloon Sinuplasty
- Hearing Aids
- Sinus Specialist
- Pediatrics & Adults
- Sleep Apnea Surgery

Clinical Practice Guidelines

Patient Information

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) About Opioids

<p>WHEN SHOULD I BEGIN TAKING MY OPIOID PAIN MEDICATION?</p>	<p>You should take opioid pain medication for severe pain as needed, but only if the pain is not controlled with nonopioid pain medication (painkillers such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen).</p> <p>If you need opioids for severe pain, take them as prescribed on the medication’s bottle.</p>
<p>HOW MANY SHOULD I TAKE AT ANY GIVEN TIME?</p>	<p>To figure out how many pills you should take, read the instructions on the medication’s bottle or the instructions given to you by your health care provider.</p>
<p>CAN I TAKE TYLENOL®, ASPIRIN OR ADVIL INSTEAD OF THIS MEDICATION OR WITH THIS MEDICATION?</p>	<p>Probably yes, but you should check with your health care provider. Some prescribed pain medications combine acetaminophen with opioids. Taking additional acetaminophen with the prescribed combination pain medication could be unsafe.</p>
<p>DO I NEED TO FINISH THE ENTIRE BOTTLE OF PILLS?</p>	<p>No, you should take the pain medication only when needed and stop taking it when the pain is controlled.</p> <p>If your severe pain is under control, there is no need to finish the bottle.</p>
<p>WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE PILLS THAT ARE LEFTOVERS?</p>	<p>Leftover pills should not be left in your home where someone else can take them.</p> <p>Certain facilities will take these leftover medications. Check with your health care provider.</p> <p>Return unused pills to the police department; Michigan state police accept leftover narcotics.</p>
<p>CAN I GIVE THESE PAIN MEDICATIONS TO FAMILY MEMBERS?</p>	<p>No, you should never share medications with a family member or anyone else.</p> <p>If you have any leftover pills, check with your health care provider or take them to a facility that will get rid of them safely.</p>

SOURCE: Anne SA, Mims JW, Tunkel DE, et al. Clinical practice guideline: opioid prescribing for analgesia after common otolaryngology operations. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2021;164(2_suppl):S1-S42.

