

## Physical Warning Signs

The following are physical signs of use/withdrawal symptoms and may include:

- **Extreme Loss of Appetite and Weight**
- **Constricted/Pinpoint Pupils**
- **Watery/Sunken In Eyes**
- **Poor Complexion or Sickly Appearance**
- **Constipation**
- **Drowsiness/Falling Asleep At Odd Times**
- **Frequently Sick**
- **Tremors, Twitching, Excessive Scratching**
- **May Appear Intoxicated With No Signs of Alcohol Use**

## WHAT PHARMACIES NEED TO KNOW

Prescription fraud is a significant and growing problem. Pharmacies are the number one target for obtaining prescription medication through the passing of fraudulent prescriptions, and they are more frequently becoming the targets of robberies and burglaries.

OxyContin, Hydrocodone, Xanax, Vicodin are the most sought after medications at this time.

Pharmacists are the last lines of defense against prescription fraud. They should regularly check patient's identification, verify doctor's information, and use their experience and knowledge to judge when a patient's behavior is suspicious or a prescription is fraudulent.

The following are common methods used to illegally obtain prescriptions from pharmacies.

## Fake or Altered Prescriptions

- **Look for altered numbers on prescriptions or amounts that seem excessive.**
- **Know the prescriber and his or her signature**
- **Know the prescriber's DEA number**

- **Telephone the prescriber for verification**
- **Check the date on the prescription; has it been presented within a reasonable time?**
- **The patient should give a plausible reason for any discrepancy before you dispense the drug.**

## Calling In Prescriptions

- **Typically, offenders impersonating medical staff call in a prescription when the doctor's office is closed.**
- **Some offenders leave their own phone numbers for verification.**
- **Offenders tend to act overly friendly on the phone to give the impression they regularly call in prescriptions.**
- **Another approach is to claim to be from out of town and to have forgotten to pack prescription drugs, or to claim to have lost the drugs from a legitimate prescription.**

## Stealing Blank Prescription Forms

- **Some offenders steal prescription pads from doctor's offices and write prescriptions for either themselves or fictitious patients.**
- **They may change the phone number so that they or an accomplice can answer verification calls.**
- **If you believe a prescription is forged or altered, do not dispense it, contact the DEA, or the local police department.**

## Other Indicators May Include:

- **Be aware of large cash purchases for high dose opiate prescriptions**
- **After hours and or weekend purchases**
- **Out of area doctors**
- **If you are in doubt, request proper identification; doing so increases offenders' risk of getting caught**
- **If you believe that you have discovered a pattern of prescription abuses, contact the**



# Facts & Information



## OxyContin Abuse



Drug Enforcement Administration  
San Diego Field Division  
HOTLINE ABUSE 1-877-662-6384

## WHAT IS OXYCONTIN?

Oxycodone is an opiate that is prescribed for moderate to high pain relief associated with severe injuries, bursitis, dislocation, fractures, neuralgia, arthritis, lower back and cancer pain. OxyContin, Percocet, Percodan, and Tylox are other trade names for Oxycodone products. Prescribed in tablet form, OxyContin is supposed to be taken orally to allow the controlled release of Oxycodone over a 12 hour period, making it the longest lasting pain reliever on the market. As with most opioids, Oxycodone is highly addictive and has a high potential for abuse, thus it is classified by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as a Schedule II narcotic.

## HOW IS OXYCONTIN ABUSED?

OxyContin is a very powerful time released medication that is to be taken under close supervision of a physician. Using the drug without the supervision of a physician or for purposes other than its intended use can lead to serious and adverse consequences, including death from overdose. When abused, tablets are crushed and snorted, chewed, injected or smoked. If the pill is not taken in the prescribed manner, the Oxycodone is introduced all at once rather than a slow release as intended. Within ten minutes, the effects are felt and last three to four hours. Most individuals who abuse Oxycodone seek to gain euphoric effects, and avoid withdrawal symptoms associated with Oxycodone or heroin abstinence.

Slang terms for the above listed medication are commonly found in text messaging and include:

<b>OxyContin</b>	<b>80's, Beans, OC, Orange Crayons</b>
<b>Xanax</b>	<b>Bars, Z-Bars, Zannies, Bricks, Ladders</b>
<b>Suboxone</b>	<b>Subs</b>
<b>Vicodin</b>	<b>Norcos, Watsons</b>



Items of paraphernalia commonly found with users.

## TRENDS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Recent state, local and Federal investigations have brought to light an increasing number of teens abusing OxyContin. A significant number of young people, generally students between 17-25 years of age, are buying OxyContin from street level dealers, in the United States, Mexico and illegally over the Internet. Investigative reporting has established several areas of San Diego County to be source cities for OxyContin. The green 80 milligram tablet is the most popular dosage unit and is commonly sold on the street for \$40 - \$80.

Other medications commonly abused with OxyContin, include Xanax, Vicodin, Percocet, and Suboxone.



Burned foil tracks



## WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW!

The following early **warning signs** should not be overlooked!

- **Loss of interest in things that, were once important!**  
Why? What has changed?
- **Drop in academic/work performance!**  
Check with teachers and/or employers.
- **Loss of motivation/always tired!**  
Do activities warrant the behavior, and or is there an underlying medical condition?
- **Frequently finds ways to get away!**  
Where are they going and are they where they say they will be? Verify activities, check text messages, My Space accounts, and e-mails.
- **Money issues!**  
Users will become very manipulative and use every excuse to get money.
- **Items missing from house!**  
Users will do anything to support their addiction, including stealing from family and/or others.