

Reducing harm from high-risk medicines

Opioids: what you can do to reduce harm

Prescribe safely, monitor for side effects and involve patients.

When prescribing:

- remember different opioids and routes have different potencies
- co-prescribe anti-nauseants, laxatives and other analgesics when clinically appropriate
- consider renal function
- consider interactions with other sedatives
- consider if opioids are needed on discharge and, if so, for how long.

Monitor patients':

- pain
- sedation level
- respiratory rate
- bowel activity.

Involve patients in management of their:

- pain
- possible side effects.



How does your
controlled drug safe compare?

(Photo provided courtesy of Waikato District Health Board)

For more information, see: www.open.hqsc.govt.nz/medication/opioids



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