Get the Facts

**OPIOIDS FOR ACUTE PAIN**

### Short Term Use

**FACT**

After taking opioids for just 5 days in a row, a person becomes more likely to take them long-term.1

Opioids can be addictive even if only taken for a short period of time.

### Level of Pain Relief

**FACT**

Opioids provide an average of 20-30% pain relief when used for pain lasting less than three months. Options that do not involve opioids may provide enough pain relief while avoiding the risks of opioids.2

Opioids don’t take away pain completely.

### Kidney Stone Pain

**FACT**

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), like ibuprofen and naproxen, work just as well as opioids (and sometimes better) for kidney stone pain.3

Opioids aren’t the only treatment for acute pain from kidney stones.

### Back Pain Relief

**FACT**

Naproxen taken alone relieves acute low back pain and improves function just as well as when it is combined with an opioid or muscle relaxer.4

Opioids aren’t the most effective treatment for acute low back pain.

### Healing From a Broken Bone

**FACT**

After a minor fracture, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), like ibuprofen and naproxen, provide adequate pain and relief and allow bones to heal, without introducing the side effects of opioids.5

As with any medicine, NSAIDs have side effects. Doctors can offer the safest, most appropriate and effective care for their patients.

Bones can heal properly after fractures, even when taking NSAIDs for pain.

---