
Controlled Substance Medication Education

Side effects and conditions may develop with the use of controlled substance medications. The following is a general list. Please note: Not all potential side effects are listed. If any of these symptoms occur, call or message Grand Rapids Pain to discuss your concerns. **Call 911 for emergencies or if you are unable to reach the Grand Rapids Pain.**

Side Effects of Opioids and other Controlled Substance Pain Medications:

- Confusion or other changes in thinking ability
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Constipation
- Itching
- Urination difficulties
- Dry Mouth
- Problems with coordination or balance
- Reduced sexual function
- Sleepiness/Drowsiness
- Aggravation of depression
- Opioid use disorder or addiction
- Pregnancy - If you take opioids during pregnancy, they can cause serious problems for your baby, like premature birth and drug withdrawal. If you're not pregnant and taking an opioid, use effective birth control until you're no longer taking the medicine.

Other risks of Opioids:

- **Physical Dependence** - Abruptly stopping use of the drug may cause withdrawal symptoms, which could include:
 - Runny nose
 - Abdominal cramping
 - Rapid heart rate
 - Diarrhea
 - Sweating
 - Nervousness, anxiety, irritability
 - Difficulty sleeping
 - Goose bumps
- **Psychological Dependence or Addiction** – It is possible that stopping the drug will cause you to miss or crave it. If you are psychologically or mentally dependent, you may exhibit:
 - Compulsive use and preoccupation with the drug and quantity used
 - Inability to consistently control the quantity used
 - Craving the psychic effects of the drug
 - Continued use despite adverse effects from the drug
- **Tolerance**-You may need more and more drug to get the same effect.
- **Overdose** – Taking more than the prescribed amount of medication or using with alcohol or other drugs, such as benzodiazepines, can cause you to stop breathing, resulting in coma, brain damage, or even death. **CALL 911.**
- **Narcan/Naloxone** – This is a prescription medication that blocks the effects of opioids and reverses an overdose. Grand Rapids Pain will provide a prescription for this medication to be available for emergency use in case of life threatening suspected or actual overdose. This prescription is NOT a substitute for the requirement for all patients who may have suffered or are suffering a possible adverse narcotic reaction or overdose to seek immediate medication attention by calling 911. Patient is advised to discuss proper use of this medication and any additional medication questions with the dispensing pharmacist as needed.
- **Safe disposal of medications** - If you have expired or unused prescription opioids, please use your community drug take-back program to dispose of them safely. To find a collection site near you, check online at www.wmtakebackmeds.org for a list of participating pharmacies, police and sheriff departments.