**7 Warning Signs That You Are Already Addicted to Opioids**

When used correctly, opioid drugs such as prescription painkillers can be very effective in treating pain. Whether it is used for pain management after surgery for to manage the pain of diseases such as cancer, opioid drugs can be a useful tool. While effective, opioid drugs have a high addiction potential. If not carefully monitored and supervised by medical personnel, you can quickly become dependent on opioid drugs—and that can pose serious issues for your mind and body.

If you are currently using opioid drugs and find yourself using them beyond the prescribed amount, this is a cause for concern. The following article highlights 7 warning signs that you are already addicted to opioids. If you find yourself displaying these warning signs, get [professional help](https://nuviewtreatment.com/) immediately.

**Sign #1: You are Preoccupied with Your Medication**

The first sign that you may be addicted to opioids is the fact that you become increasingly obsessed with when you can take your next dose. Additionally, you also think if that dose is enough for you. There may be instances where your preoccupation with your medication makes sense. Examples of this include taking your medications right after surgery or if you need to take your medications right after dental work.

However, if your preoccupation with your medications goes on for extended periods of time, you may be addicted to opioid medication. It is important to note that addiction occurs when you are both physically and emotionally drawn to a drug or medication. When obtaining and using your medications takes center stage, you are addicted and need help.

**Sign #2: You Aren't Taking the Prescribed Amount**

Opioid medications are potent and must be taken under the close supervision of experienced medical personnel. When doctors prescribe your doses, they do so for you to manage your pain and to minimize the risks of dependency. If you are taking more than the prescribed amount or are stretching out your doses to make your medications last longer, you may be addicted.

If the dosage you are taking is not adequately managing your pain, you cannot play doctor on your own and adjust your medications. It is essential to contact your doctor right away and explain your issues with the medication. Trying to control things on your own will lead you down the path of dependency and opioid addiction.

**Sign #3: Doctor Shopping**

Another telltale sign of opioid addiction is if you are engaging in the practice of doctor shopping. This occurs when you seek the same prescription from more than one doctor. When you become addicted to your medication, your primary doctor raises the red flags in why you need more medications. If your primary doctor refuses to give you what you need, you may seek out other doctors to write you a prescription or seek out doctor known to overprescribe medications.

**Sign #4: You Use Other Sources to Get Your Medications**

If you are addicted to opioid medications, your doctor may be aware of your addiction and refuses to give you any more. Other doctors may also be mindful that you are obtaining these medications to use them beyond what they were prescribed initially. To get more medications "that you need," you may have already started shopping around.

You may have ordered medications online or obtained what you need from family and friends. You may have resorted to stealing these medications from medicine cabinets or bought other people's prescription drugs. Worse yet, you may have resorted to hurting yourself on purpose so you can go to the emergency room to get more medications. If you are resorting to these tactics, you are addicted to opioids.

**Sign #5: You Use Opioid Medication for Longer Than Intended**

When you started off using painkiller medications, you did so because you had legitimate pain issues. However, these medications are only intended for short-term use and under strict doctor care. If you are still using these medications daily and long after the pain should have subsided, you may have a problem.

The reasons why you still take these medications vary. You may like the way you feel when you take them, or you may have intense cravings for these drugs. No matter the reason, they are telltale signs that you are dependent and even addicted to these medications.

**Sign #6: You Get Defensive About Your Usage**

If you are abusing prescription medications, your family and friends have noticed. If your loved ones have talked to you about your drug use and you become irritated and defensive, it is a sign that you may be addicted and need professional help.

**Sign #7: Your Personal Appearance Drastically Changes**

When the use of drugs takes over your life, everything else takes a backseat—including your personal appearance and hygiene. You may look ragged from not getting enough sleep, and your eating habits have drastically changed. You may look pale and unkempt, and you may be moodier or on edge. If you or others are shocked in how you have transformed for the worse, you are in the grips of addiction.

If you are displaying any or all of these signs, you need to find professional help immediately. Opioid drugs are potent, and quitting cold turkey can create significant health issues. With the structure and programming found in a reputable drug treatment facility, you can regain your health and sanity.