

Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners



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Resource for Prescription Pain Relievers (Opioids)

The State of Nevada is facing an opioid abuse epidemic by patients. The Legislature and regulatory agencies have taken measures to ensure the practitioners prescribing the controlled substances are taken the necessary measures to ensure patient safety.

The Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners provides this information as a resource for patients who may be prescribed opioids or other controlled substances by your dentist. Opioids should be used for treating chronic pain according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

As a patient, when you are prescribed controlled substances to include, but not limited to, opioids you should ask your dentist the risks, benefits and alternatives relative to the prescription.

Some helpful questions might be:

What are the risks or side effects of this medication?

What are the benefits to taking this medication?

Are there alternatives in lieu of this medication?

You as the patient should always disclose all medications you are currently taking whether over the counter or prescribed by your healthcare provider(s) to avoid possible interactions with other medications.

Should you be issued a prescription for opioids or other controlled substances, please follow the directions as prescribed, keep these and all medications out of reach of children and young adults. Never share your medications with anyone else. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration,

the SAMHAS's 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that over 70 percent of people who used prescription pain relievers non-medically got them from friends or relatives, while approximately 5 percent got them from a drug dealer or from the internet. The FDA states, one way to address the prescription pain relievers getting into the hands of others is the proper disposing of the unused, unneeded, or expired medications. An important environmental safety message in the fight against improper medication disposal is to recommend against flushing prescription drugs with the few exceptions noted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

If you or a loved one may have an opioid or prescription drug problem, the Board's provides the following links below to assist you in finding additional resources:

- <http://healthienv.org/resource-list/>

Lastly, if you have substantial evidence that a dental provider is issuing prescription pain relievers not issued not for legitimate dental treatment, you may file a complaint with our agency.