



## PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

How can I protect my children from abusing oxycodone and other prescription drugs?

- **Keep your prescription drugs in a secure place.** Ask questions if you notice certain prescription drugs disappearing.
- **If your children take prescription drugs, keep control of the bottle.** Talk to your school nurse about monitoring and giving your teen their medications during the school day.
- **Talk with your children about the dangers of abusing oxycodone and other prescription drugs.**
- **Monitor Internet use in your home.** Be alert—there are many sites on the Internet where prescription drugs can be purchased without a prescription.
- **Be a part of your child’s life.** Know where they go, with whom, and when. Set clear rules about alcohol and drug use, and enforce them.

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

### Prescription Monitoring Program

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(860) 713-6073 • [www.ct.gov/dcp](http://www.ct.gov/dcp)



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# Oxycodone:

(Endocodone, M-Oxy, OxyContin, Oxy-IR, Oxydose, Percolone, Roxicodone)

## Protect Your Teens



## Get the Facts About this Highly Addictive and Abusable Drug

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## COMMON LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF OXYCODONE

Long-term physical effects of oxycodone abuse, or any opioid drug abuse, include:

### Cardiovascular Damage (primarily due to injecting the drugs):

- Endocarditis -- heart infection
- Scarred and/or collapsed veins
- Blood vessels clogged by foreign particles, causing cell death

### Other Organ Damage and Disease:

- Liver disease
- Kidney disease
- Arthritis (primarily due to injecting the drugs)

### Danger During Pregnancy:

- Miscarriage, premature delivery, or stillbirth of pregnancies
- Addicted newborns

## WHAT IS OXYCODONE?

Oxycodone is a drug prescribed by physicians to treat moderate to severe pain. While prescription drugs may be helpful if they are used properly, taking oxycodone without a doctor's approval and supervision can be highly addictive and dangerous.

- Although oxycodone is a prescription drug, it is also a narcotic (opiate) like heroin. People who become addicted to oxycodone often switch to heroin, which is easier to get and less expensive.
- Among teens, oxycodone is also known as Oxy, OC, Roxi's or blue dynamite (different strengths have different names).

### Prescription drug misuse is more common than you think:

- Most prescription drugs abused by teens come from family medicine cabinets and from friends.
- 1 in 5 teens have abused oxycodone or other prescription drugs.
- 3 out of 10 teens believe that getting high on prescription medications is not dangerous, but the truth is it can be just as dangerous and addictive as using heroin.



## MISUSING OXYCODONE

The misuse of oxycodone or other prescription drugs by teens can lead to the following:

- **Physical dependence.** Dependence develops quickly. The body adapts to the presence of oxycodone and withdrawal symptoms occur when use is stopped.
- **Severe symptoms when use is stopped,** including restlessness, muscle and bone pain, insomnia, diarrhea, vomiting, cold flashes, and involuntary leg movements.
- **Repeated misuse will lead to addiction to Oxycodone.** Heroin addiction often follows.
- **You will notice changes in your teen's social, emotional and family life.**
- **Changes in breathing can lead to death.**



## PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

How to recognize if your teen is abusing oxycodone or other prescription drugs:

- Your teen has drugs (like pills) for unlikely reasons.
- You notice prescription drugs missing.
- Your teen visits websites where he or she can purchase drugs or learn about drug use.
- You notice changes in your teen's social behavior.

### Other prescription drugs that can be abused include:

- Pain relievers (like Percocet® or Vicodin®)
- Stimulants (like Adderall® and Ritalin®)
- Sedatives and Tranquilizers (like Mebaral®, Valium® or Xanax®)