

Get Tested. Get Treated. Get Cured.

HCV & Harm Reduction

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OPIOIDS

Opioids are drugs used to relieve pain. Natural opioids are created from the poppy seed plant. Opioids include heroin, opium, morphine, codeine, fentanyl, carfentanyl, tramadol and many more. There are many potential side effects of short and long term opioid use. These include nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, itching, constipation and respiratory depression. Some less common side effects are hallucinations, delirium, hypothermia, heart arrhythmia, dizziness and muscle rigidity. When opioids are mixed with alcohol or other substances that cause breathing and consciousness to slow down, the risk of overdose increases. Opioids work by interacting with opioid receptors within the brain to regulate/reduce pain. If taken correctly and for a short amount of time

most opioid medications are safe. Opioids produce a feeling of euphoria. Taking opioids for a long period of time leads to addiction.

Remember:

Opioids are a class of drugs that include heroin and fentanyl but also drugs like codeine, morphine and Vicodin. If you are prescribed opioids by a medical provider be sure to take them exactly as prescribed. If you are taking them illegally and without supervision do not mix other drugs with them. Doing this can increase the likelihood of overdose and potentially death.

learn more by visiting www.hcvadvocate.org

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