

# What's That Mean? – Taking Opioid Medicine Safely

It is very important that you follow your care team's instructions.

Don't take medicine unless you need it, and if you do need it, use as directed to keep you safe.

Only use the medicine as long as you need to relieve strong pain.

Never take someone else's medicine, or let anyone else take yours.

Never give or take a higher dose or more than is prescribed.

Don't take medicine sooner than directed by your doctor.

If you have leftover medicine, you should get rid of it. Old medicine in a drawer or medicine cabinet is one of the most dangerous things in people's homes today.