Opioids: What You Need to Know

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addiction (noun): a brain disorder or illness associated with compulsive (uncontrollable) behavior, such as drug use, despite negative consequences

addictive (adjective): something, such as a drug, that causes changes to the brain that result in compulsive (uncontrollable) behavior despite negative consequences

administer (verb): to dispense or give out, such as a medication

crave (verb): to have an intense desire for something

crisis (noun): a situation that has reached an unstable point and that has a high chance of having a negative outcome

fentanyl (noun): an opioid drug made in laboratories that is much stronger (50 times) than other legal opioids. Even a very small amount can cause a deadly overdose.

naloxone (noun): an emergency medication used to reverse the effects of opioid overdose and restore breathing. If it is used quickly enough, naloxone can prevent a person from dying of overdose.

opioid (noun): one of a group of drugs that produce relaxation, pleasure, and pain relief. Opioids can be addictive and potentially deadly due to overdoses.

opioid use disorder (noun): a brain disorder associated with a physical dependence on opioids so that when a person tries to stop using opioids they experience withdrawal symptoms such as cravings

overdose (noun): a deadly or toxic amount of a drug; (verb) to take a deadly or toxic amount of a drug

prescription medication (noun): a medication that must be ordered by a doctor before it can be dispensed (given out)

surge (noun): a sudden increase to an excessive or high amount

synthetic (adjective): produced by a chemical process

withdrawal symptom (noun): something that happens in the body of a person addicted to a drug when the person stops taking the drug