

Pain management strategies

Non-drug strategies:

- Exercise/move as your pain allows (for example, stretch, walk, jog, swim).
- Try other activities:
 - sweat lodge
 - yoga
 - mindfulness
 - ceremonies
 - tai chi
 - referral to other specialists to help
 - massage
 - acupuncture

Avoid activities that cause pain or discomfort, or increase swelling.

Over-the-counter medications:

- Ibuprofen (generics, Advil, Motrin):** 400 mg (two 200 mg tablets), every 4-6 hours, as needed for pain or swelling
 - Naproxen (generics, Aleve):** 220 mg every 12 hours, as needed for pain or swelling
- OR**
- Acetaminophen (generics, Tylenol):** 325-650 mg, every 4-6 hours as needed for pain (do not exceed 4,000 mg in a day, or 3,000 mg if over 65)

Remember: This pain will likely get better over time.

What you should know about prescription opioids for short-term pain

Using an opioid in the short term:

- increases your risk of falls and fracture
- may cause confusion
- may cause side effects (constipation, tiredness, nausea, feeling itchy)

If an opioid is needed, it should only be used for a short time.

Stop taking opioids as soon as possible.

Discard unused portion:

- Contact your local healthcare facility or visit: bit.ly/dropoff_locator
- Use activated charcoal disposal bags.
- Find DEA take back events: dea.gov/takebackday



These are general recommendations only; specific clinical decisions should be made by the treating clinician based on an individual patient's clinical condition.

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