REDUCE OVERDOSE. 
PREScribe RESPONSIBLY. 
OVERPREscribing LEADS to MORE ABUSE and MORE OVERDOSE DEATHS.

4x increase in sales of prescription opioids since 1999.

In that same time more than 165,000 people have died from overdose related to prescription opioids.

REFER TO THE CDC GUIDELINE FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR CHRONIC PAIN FOR RESPONSIBLE PRESCRIBING OF THESE DRUGS\(^1\).

1. USE NONOPIOID THERAPIES
   Don’t use opioids routinely for chronic pain. Use nonopioid therapies alone or in combination with opioids. Only consider opioid therapy if you expect benefits for pain and function to outweigh risks.

2. START LOW AND GO SLOW
   When opioids are used, start with the lowest effective dosage and short-acting opioids instead of extended-release/long-acting opioids.

3. FOLLOW-UP
   Regularly assess whether opioids are improving pain and function without causing harm. If benefits do not outweigh harms, optimize other therapies and work with patients to taper opioids.

\(^1\)Recommendations do not apply to pain management in the context of active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life care.

GUIDELINE FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR CHRONIC PAIN

LEARN MORE | www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html