

Initial Opioid Prescription Patterns and the Risk of Ongoing Use and Adverse Outcomes

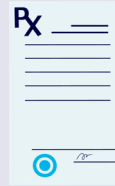


2,021,371
Ontarians

were newly dispensed a
prescription opioid for pain between
July 2013 and March 2016



The most commonly dispensed opioids were **codeine**, **oxycodone**, **tramadol**, and **hydromorphone**



The most common indications for treatment were **dental**, **post-surgical**, and **musculoskeletal pain**

1 in every 2000 new prescription opioid recipients experienced an opioid overdose within the first year after opioid initiation



67%
involved an **emergency department** visit



24%
led to an **inpatient admission**



9%
resulted in an **opioid-related death**

Initial opioid prescription characteristics associated with a higher risk of **overdose and long-term use**



Higher Daily Dose

Initial daily doses exceeding **200 MME** increased risk of both overdose and long-term use by more than **2.5X**



Longer Prescription Duration

Durations of **5+ days** increased risk of overdose by **27% to 80%**



Long-Acting Formulation

Receipt of a **long-acting opioid** increased risk of overdose and long-term use by **58%** and **38%**, respectively

For More Information

Gomes, T., Campbell, T., Tadrous, M., Mamdani, M., Paterson, M., & Juurlink, D. (2020) Initial opioid prescription patterns and the risk of ongoing use and adverse outcomes. *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*

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