**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, postsurgical, 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:** Durations of 30+ days increased risk of long-term use by 8-fold.
- **Receipt of a long-acting opioid:** Increased risk of overdose and long-term use by 58% and 38%, respectively.

**For More Information**

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*milligrams of morphine or equivalent*