

DENTAL OPIOID PRESCRIPTION CHARACTERISTICS AND THE RISK OF NEW, LONG-TERM USE

Dentists are the **second largest group of opioid prescribers in Ontario** and often prescribe to opioid-naïve patients.

Characteristics (e.g. **dose, duration, formulation**) of initial opioid prescriptions can lead to long-term use, however little is known about the effect of these characteristics among dental indications.



786,125

opioid-naïve Ontarians were newly dispensed an opioid prescribed by a dentist between October 2014 and September 2018:

Codeine (82%) and **oxycodone (13%)** combination products were the most commonly prescribed

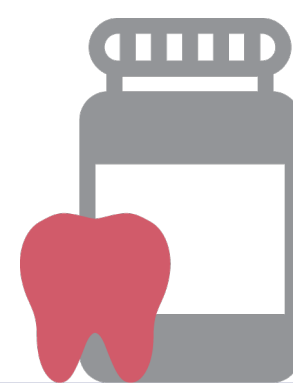
An average of **23 tablets** and a **four days' supply** were dispensed

The median daily dose dispensed was **30 milligram morphine equivalents (MME)**

The majority of recipients were prescribed a **short-acting opioid**

NEW, LONG-TERM USE

New, long-term use occurred among **almost 5%** of opioid-naïve Ontario residents who were newly dispensed an opioid prescribed by a dentist:



An initial daily dose **above 90 MME** was associated with a **20% increase** in the odds of long-term use

A prescription duration of **15+ days** was associated with a **> two-fold increase** in the odds of long-term use

Although rare, receiving a **long-acting opioid** was associated with an almost **eight-fold increase** in the odds of long-term use

OPIOID-RELATED OVERDOSE

Opioid overdose was **rare** within the first 90 days, occurring among 140 individuals. However there are some important considerations to be aware of:



Half of the opioid-related overdoses among this population occurred within **30 days of opioid initiation**



The **rate of opioid overdose** was highest among people dispensed **more than 50 MME**

For more information, contact info@odprn.ca

Campbell, T., Martins, D., Tadrous, T., Juurlink, D., Paterson, M., Mamdani, M., Mock, D., Gomes, T. (2021). Dental opioid prescription characteristics and the risk of new, persistent use. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

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