

# CLINICAL REMINDERS FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS

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OKLAHOMA  
State Department  
of Health

**Learn more:** [oklahoma.gov/health/overdose](https://oklahoma.gov/health/overdose)



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# Clinical Reminders



## Determining When to Initiate or Continue Opioids For Chronic Pain

- ⋮ Opioids are not first-line or routine therapy for chronic pain
- ⋮ Establish and measure goals for pain and function
- ⋮ Discuss benefits, risks, and availability of nonopioid therapies with patient



## Opioid Selection, Dosage, Duration, Follow-Up and Discontinuation

- ⋮ Use immediate-release opioids when starting
- ⋮ Start low and go slow
- ⋮ When opioids are needed for acute pain, prescribe no more than needed
- ⋮ Do not prescribe ER/LA opioids for acute pain
- ⋮ Follow-up and re-evaluate risk of harm; reduce dose or taper and discontinue if needed



## Assessing Risk and Addressing Harms of Opioid Use

- ⋮ Evaluate risk factors for opioid-related harms
- ⋮ Check PMP for high dosages and prescriptions from other providers
- ⋮ Use urine drug testing to identify prescribed substances and undisclosed use
- ⋮ Avoid concurrent benzodiazepine and opioid prescribing
- ⋮ Arrange treatment for opioid use disorder if needed