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**PAIN MANAGEMENT
DENTISTRY
INITIATIVE**



**PRESCRIBING
RECOMMENDATIONS
OPIOIDS**



PAIN MANAGEMENT

4 EVIDENCE-BASED REASONS

**TO IMPROVE OPIOID
PRESCRIBING PRACTICES
AFTER DENTAL SURGERY**



[HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.56137/OPEN.000016](https://doi.org/10.56137/OPEN.000016)
UPDATED 2026

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Overdose Prevention Engagement Network

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OPEN is partially funded by the Michigan Department
of Health and Human Services.

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Prevention. Treatment. Recovery.

EVIDENCE SHOWS:

IN OUTPATIENT DENTAL SURGERY

54% OF OPIOIDS ARE NOT USED¹

Reducing opioid prescribing improves safety for patients, families, and communities

- From 2010 to 2016, the proportion of initial opioid prescriptions in dental care increased by 68%²
- In young adults, dentists are the leading prescribers of opioids³
- Overdose risk among family members increased when opioid prescriptions were dispensed to patients for a dental surgery⁴

NO CORRELATION BETWEEN PATIENT SATISFACTION SCORES AND AMOUNT OF OPIOID PRESCRIBED⁵

Prescribing more opioids does not improve patient satisfaction

- Patients who used opioids after tooth extraction reported significantly higher levels of pain compared to those who did not use opioids, but no difference in satisfaction was observed⁵
- Patients who were prescribed fewer opioids reported using fewer opioids with no change in pain scores⁶

6.9% OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS WHO RECEIVE OPIOIDS AFTER DENTAL SURGERY DEVELOPED NEW PERSISTENT OPIOID USE⁹

New persistent opioid use is one of the most common surgical complications

- In adolescents and young adults who received dental opioids, 5.8% had an opioid misuse or overdose related encounter⁹
- Filling an opioid prescription after wisdom tooth removal resulted in more than three times the risk of developing new persistent opioid use¹⁰
- Most adolescents believe that prescription opioids are safer than other substances of misuse¹¹

ACETAMINOPHEN AND IBUPROFEN ARE **MORE EFFECTIVE**

THAN OPIOIDS IN MANAGING PAIN^{7,8}



Using over-the-counter medications to manage pain can decrease the need for opioids after dental surgery

- Patients who were prescribed fewer opioids reported using fewer opioids with no change in pain scores⁶
- Prescribers can feel empowered to reduce their initial opioid prescription without impacting patient satisfaction⁵