



- Insomnia
- Addiction

### Crimes Related to OxyContin:

Most illegal drug use involves criminal activity apart from the illegal possession and sale of the drug. When OxyContin is illegally diverted, related crimes can include:

- Armed robbery
- Burglary
- Shoplifting in drug stores
- Health care fraud
- Insurance fraud
- Obtaining illegal prescriptions

### Street Names and Prices:

OxyContin is known on the streets as:

- **OXY**
- **OC**
- **KILLER**
- **POOR MAN'S HEROIN**
- **OXYCOTTON**
- **HILLBILLY HEROIN**

A single tablet usually sells for \$1 per milligram. The retail cost of a 100-tablet bottle

*For additional information related to the contents of this brochure, please contact the Office of Attorney General Education & Outreach Unit.*

#### Truth & Choices

The Office of Attorney General has created this new anti-drug program to introduce middle and high school students to Shane. A popular kid from a suburban Pennsylvania school, Shane shares this true story of hard choices and near death experiences due to drugs and alcohol. The presentation features interviews with Shane (from prison), his family, law enforcement and the medical community. It's a reality check for all students and will open a unique dialogue about the realities of substance abuse. There is also a program for parents. Both programs are available on DVD and can be ordered free-of-charge from the Office of Attorney General Education & Outreach Unit.

*To order a copy of the DVD and/or to request a "Truth & Choices" school or community presentation to be given by the Office of Attorney General, please contact our Education & Outreach Unit toll-free at **800-525-7642** or via email at [education@attorneygeneral.gov](mailto:education@attorneygeneral.gov).*

# OxyContin:

## Dangers of Abuse



*You may have heard news reports about a prescription drug called OxyContin. Although OxyContin is a highly effective drug for treating patients with chronic or severe pain, it is being illegally obtained and sold on the streets of Pennsylvania. When this drug is abused, it can cause serious problems - severe respiratory depression, addiction and even death.*

*OxyContin is illegally diverted or stolen from doctors, pharmacists and hospitals by individuals who want to abuse it or sell it on the street for profit. Drug addicts will steal or forge prescriptions and even rob pharmacies to get this drug.*

*We all need to work together to prevent the illegal use of OxyContin and the crimes related to its diversion. Please take a few minutes to read this pamphlet. Educating ourselves against the dangers of illegal drug use is the first step toward preventing abuse and drug-related crime.*

## What is OxyContin?

OxyContin is an opiate derivative available by prescription and is used to treat moderate to severe pain, especially the chronic pain associated with debilitating conditions and diseases like cancer. It comes in tablet form and has a time-release effect that gives relief over a 12-hour time period. When used as prescribed, OxyContin helps cancer patients and chronic pain sufferers manage their pain and add quality to their lives.

OxyContin's active ingredient - oxycodone - has effects similar to heroin, making it more attractive to some drug abusers. Normally, the OxyContin tablet would be swallowed whole. But people abusing it will chew on the tablet, crush it and snort the powder, or even dissolve the powder in water and inject the solution. Crushing the tablet destroys the time-release properties of the drug, making the effects quickly felt.

OxyContin is usually prescribed in 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg and 80 mg tablets. Many people mistakenly believe that medicines in pill or tablet form are less dangerous than street drugs. The stigma of using needles, buying from dealers in unsavory places and other perceived dangers are not associated with abusing legal drugs obtained from a legitimate source. But OxyContin is a potent pain reliever and, if not taken as directed under the supervision of a doctor, serious problems can

occur.

## Effects:

When chewed, snorted, or injected, OxyContin produces a high similar to that of heroin and can be just as dangerous and addictive. OxyContin suppresses the respiratory system. If used with alcohol or other depressants, it can be deadly. If the abuser goes to sleep, his respiration can decrease until breathing actually stops.

Withdrawal from OxyContin is similar to withdrawal from other opiates.

### *Effects can include:*

- Nausea/Vomiting
- Sweating
- Irritability
- Abdominal Cramps
- Diarrhea
- Chills/Goose Bumps

