

## Your physician is prescribing an opioid medication as part of your treatment.



**It is important to remember the following when taking your medication:**

- ❖ Take your medication exactly as prescribed.
- ❖ Read all instructions that come with your medication.
- ❖ Using this drug may cause addiction. While addiction is more common in people with a personal or family history of addiction, it can occur in anyone.
- ❖ Taking more than the prescribed amount of medication or using with alcohol or other drugs can cause you to stop breathing resulting in coma, brain damage, or death.
- ❖ Opioids can slow reaction time, cause drowsiness, or cloud judgment. It may be unsafe for you to drive or operate heavy machinery while taking your medication.
- ❖ Opioids are at risk of being diverted by anyone with access to your home. Opioids should be stored in a safe and secure place, such as a locked cabinet or safe.
- ❖ Unused opioids should be disposed of according to the label or patient information. If there are no specific instructions, medications may be returned to a take-back location or mixed with a small amount of water and an undesirable waste substances such as used coffee grounds or cat litter.