

Mayo Clinic Minute

Opioids in the ED

Video	Audi
Vivien Williams	Opioid pain medication can hook people into addiction quickly. Some worry that emergency departments (ED) are a major source for these drugs.
Molly Jeffery, Ph.D. Scientific Director Mayo Clinic Division of Emergency Medicine Research	“One thing that sort of everybody thinks they know about opioids is that, in the ED, they give opioids out like candy.”
Vivien Williams	Not true, says Mayo Clinic's Dr. Molly Jeffery. She and her colleagues published a study that found opioid prescriptions from the ED are written for a shorter duration and smaller dose than those written elsewhere. They also found that patients with acute pain who receive an opioid prescription in the ED are less likely to progress to long-term use.
Molly Jeffery, Ph.D.	“What we want to avoid is people having a large prescription and having lots of pills leftover because, at that point, it becomes a risk for their family members and other people who come to their home.”
Vivien Williams	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines caution against exceeding a three-day supply or 50 milligrams of morphine equivalent per day for acute pain.
Molly Jeffery, Ph.D.	“And, so, limiting prescriptions to three to seven days is a good balance.”
	For the Mayo Clinic news Network, I'm Vivien Williams.