

Anyone can become addicted



Painkillers can be highly addictive
and have many negative side effects.

- ❗ Strong painkilling medicines (such as morphine, oxycodone or fentanyl) are known as strong opioids, and can be very effective at relieving pain in the short term, for example, after an operation.
- ❗ It used to be thought that opioids were helpful in treating chronic pain (more than 3 months), however we now know that in most chronic pain conditions opioids lose their pain relieving effect.
- ❗ You must not stop opioid medicines suddenly, as this can lead to withdrawal effects, this should be done slowly and under medical supervision.

N.B. Tramadol, oramorph and codeine can also be addictive.

**If you are taking pain killers for a chronic condition
and would like a review please make an appointment
to see your GP or Pain Management Specialist.**

