

# Understanding Prescription Opioids

Opioid prescriptions are often misused because people take them in ways they weren't prescribed, or they take someone else's medication. As a patient, you have the responsibility and power to protect yourself from opioid misuse. And dental offices have the responsibility to only provide you with pain relief options that are safe and appropriate.

## For your safety, dentists:

- Cannot prescribe opioid narcotics for nondental related conditions.
- Will not refill lost, stolen or destroyed prescriptions.

## Talk to your dentist

- Share medical history with your dentist, including any history of drug use or addiction.
- Give your dentist an updated medication list so he or she can assess interactions between medications.
- Discuss alternative pain management strategies.

## Dispose of your medications properly

- Some medications come with disposal directions, including whether they can be flushed down a toilet or put in household trash. Pharmacists can explain how to safely dispose of medications.

Keeping your smile healthy is an important part of keeping your body healthy. For tips, tools and resources to help you improve and maintain your oral and overall health and wellness, visit Delta Dental's website.