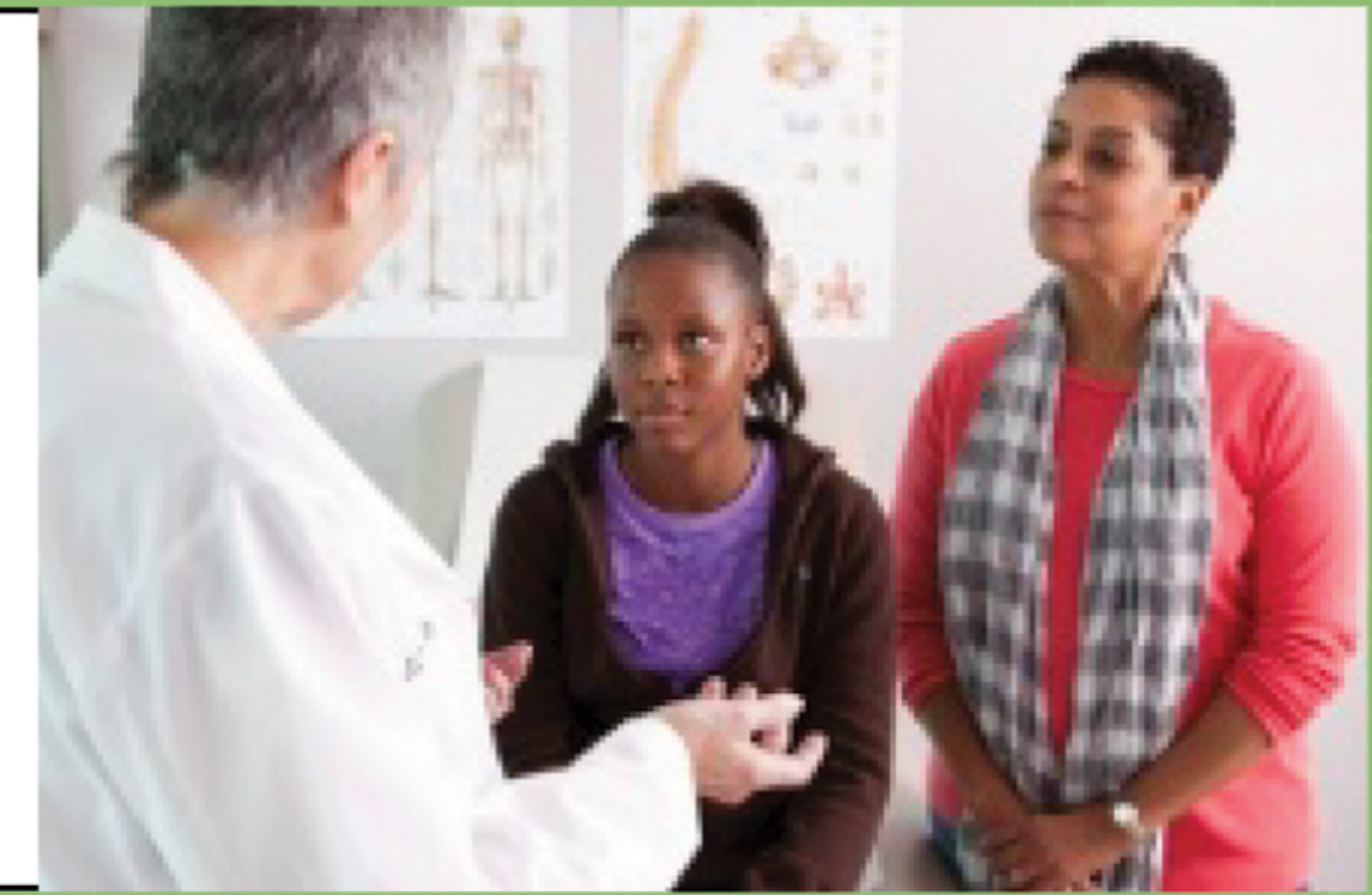


# 12 Questions to Ask Before Taking Opioids



Whether your teen has surgery, an injury, or a dental procedure that may require the use of prescription opioids, there are questions you can ask the doctor to help successfully manage pain while limiting addiction risks.



Take this list of questions with you to your next appointment.

**1**

Is this prescription an opioid?  
  
Why are you prescribing it?

**4**

Are there any side effects, and can I do anything to reduce or prevent them?

**7**

Addiction runs in our family. Should \_\_ take this medication?  
OR  
\_\_ has a history of substance abuse. Should \_\_ still take this opioid?

**10**

After I finish this medication, how can I discard it?

**2**

How long and how often should this medication be taken?

**5**

What are the rates of addiction with this particular opioid, and can we do anything to help prevent addiction?

**8**

Is starting with a lower dose or fewer pills an option?

**11**

If I have concerns about this medication in the future, whom do I contact?

**3**

Will this interact with any other medications?  
(List any medications being used)

**6**

Does this medication effect the ability to drive or sleep?

**9**

Are there any non-opioids that can be taken as an alternative?

**12**

Can you recommend any treatment options or therapies to manage pain that do not involve taking medication?