



What are Opana® and Opana® ER?

Opana is the brand name for oxymorphone - which is a very strong narcotic pain reliever similar to morphine. In Opana ER, the oxymorphone is released slowly over time so it should be taken every twelve hours.

Are there risks with taking Opana and Opana ER?

There are serious and unpredictable risks with both medications. Risks include;

- life threatening reactions to alcohol, even to the small amounts in over-the-counter cough syrups;
- up to 50% increase in medication strength when taken with food;
- danger to people 65 and older; and with liver/kidney problems due to medication build up in the body;
- physical dependence, addiction and potential for abuse are also concerns.

Are there additional concerns with Opana ER?

Opana ER must be taken whole. If it is crushed, broken or chewed a life threatening dose of oxymorphone is released immediately.

These risks are scary, what else can I do?

- Because the risks are so unpredictable and there are many other options available, talk to your doctor or pharmacist to make sure Opana is the best option for you.
- For patients 65 and older these medications are not safe, so consult your doctor.
- Avoid alcohol including over-the-counter products that contain alcohol if you take Opana.

Why are there quantity limits on Opana and Opana ER?

There are safety risks with Opana and Opana ER, therefore prescriptions for high doses need to be reviewed before they can be covered. The safety of using Opana in doses over 80 mg per day has not been studied.

Why is a urine sample required?

Test results from urine samples help you and your doctor make informed decisions about managing your pain. Urine samples are required every year for continued coverage of these pain medications. The results from the test are between you and your doctor.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The risks with Opana are unpredictable and dangerous. **Talk to your doctor about potential unpredictable risks and to see if other options may be right for you.** Avoid alcohol and products that contain alcohol completely.

Note: Since many medication options are available, our physicians and pharmacists developed this to provide you with information about the available alternatives, as well as potential advantages and lack of advantages of the various products. This medication summary was developed based upon an evaluation of information from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), scientific studies, and input from practicing doctors and specialists.