



## FACTS

### **It is illegal to share or sell prescription drugs.**

*Federal law makes it illegal for any person who does not have a license to write prescriptions to sell or give a prescription drug to another person.*

### **Most of my peers do not use opioids.**

*Only 14% of high school students reported non-prescription use of opioids. But, it is important to engage the healthy majority of students who are not misusing to ensure they are armed with the knowledge and skills to help friends, peers, and family members who may be misusing or abusing.*

### **It is illegal to share or sell prescription drugs.**

*Federal law makes it illegal for any person who does not have a license to write prescriptions to sell or give a prescription drug to another person.*

### **Most of my peers do not use opioids.**

*Only 14% of high school students reported non-prescription use of opioids. But, it is important to engage the healthy majority of students who are not misusing to ensure they are armed with the knowledge and skills to help friends, peers, and family members who may be misusing or abusing.*

### **A pharmacist will know if a prescribed medicine is safe to take with other medications.**

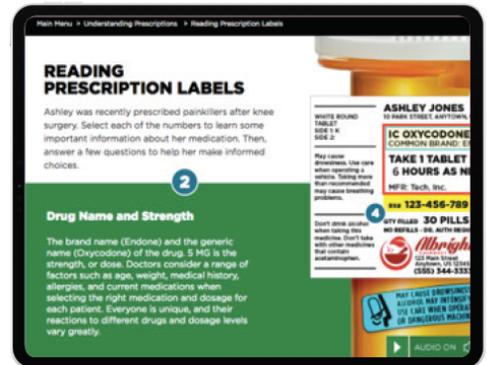
*Your pharmacist not only dispenses medications but can also determine which medicines – either prescribed or over the counter, are safe to take in combination with other medicine.*

### **Most opioid-related overdoses are accidental.**

*Misuse or abuse of prescription medications can lead to overdose and in some cases, death. In fact, opioid abuse is the leading cause of accidental deaths in the United States.*

### **Not all prescription medications are addictive.**

*Some prescription drugs, such as allergy medications, antibiotics, and mild pain relievers, aren't addictive, but all medications, including those you can buy over-the-counter, can be abused. Any prescribed medication should be used exactly how a doctor prescribes them otherwise you are at risk of becoming addicted or having adverse effects.*



Screen-shot from the Prescription Drug Safety Course.

## MYTHS

### **Addiction is only determined by family history.**

*Addiction can impact anyone based on a variety of factors, including family history, but may also include personal habits, substance abuse, and environment – social, economic, and emotions*

### **Prescription drugs are always safer than illicit drugs because a doctor prescribed them.**

*Doctors prescribe specific medications to individuals after thoroughly understanding their needs and medical history. These medicines are intended for the person to whom they are prescribed and can potentially harm those who take them without the approval of their medical provider.*

### **It's okay to take my sibling's prescription medications.**

*Even if the prescription is from a family member, you should only take medication that has been prescribed to you by a doctor. Because prescription medications are considered controlled substances under the FDA, it is illegal to share or sell your own medication. And it's dangerous since you have no idea what the drug's effect may be on you.*

### **If I have leftover/unused medications, I should flush it down the toilet.**

*People should avoid flushing medications down toilets and sinks. Unwanted and expired medicine may be a risk to human health and the environment if disposed of improperly. If you have leftover/unused medications you are encouraged to find a trusted adult to help you dispose of them at a drug take back kiosk or dispose of them using a safe, alternative method.*

### **Prescription medications cannot be addictive.**

*Risk for addiction depends on a person's genes, as well as his or her environment (social, economic, and emotional) and age. The younger the starting age, the greater the chances of addiction. If medication is not taken as prescribed by a doctor, you may be at risk of becoming addicted.*

### **It's okay to store my medication in my bathroom.**

*It may seem like the logical place, but the heat and moisture from the bathroom can damage the medication and cause it to become less effective.*

### **There is nothing I can do as a student to combat this issue.**

*Everyone has a role to play in ending prescription drug misuse and abuse. It is important to share the information you have learned today, and in the Prescription Drug Safety course with your peers, friends, and parents.*