



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Are opioids addictive?

Yes. Over time, opioid use can change the brain, leading to addiction. **Addiction** means a person continues to use a drug despite **negative consequences**, and actively tries to get more and more of the drug.

Many people who take prescription opioids for pain become **dependent**, not addicted. **Dependence** means your body has gotten used to the drug, and it will hurt and feel uncomfortable if you suddenly stop. Sometimes dependence can lead to addiction if a person doesn't make an effort to stop taking the drugs.



PREVIEW

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Withdrawal

The brain gets so used to using opioids that when someone stops taking them, they can go into withdrawal. **Withdrawal symptoms** include sweating, shaking, vomiting, diarrhea and sleep problems. The symptoms can be so severe that it can be hard for someone to stop using opioids, even if they want to. This is why it can take several tries to stop drug use.



