

Dear Parents,

Any information contained in this letter is not intended as medical advice, but simply to alert families to the existence of alternatives to opioids and that any such choices should be discussed with their physicians.

In 2014 nearly 2500 Pennsylvanians died from drug overdoses, many from opiate-based drugs. I am sure many of you know of people that have died in your area due to an overdose.

Unfortunately, many have kept silent due to the social stigma, but that has only fueled an increase in deaths. Heroin does not discriminate among race, ethnicity, gender, nor socio-economic status. If you have chance, please watch this episode from CBS's *60 Minutes*, which originally aired in October, 2015. <http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/heroin-in-the-heartland-2/>

An increasing number of heroin overdoses are being experienced by young adults that have become addicted to opiate-based pharmaceuticals prescribed to them due to school sports injuries or common accidents. Oxycotin, Demerol, and Percoset, and many other opiate-based pain killers, can become highly addictive after an extended period of use. A person that is addicted could purchase Oxycotin on the black market for \$80 a pill. Due to that expense, many switch to heroin, which is now only \$5 per small bag. However, heroin transforms the brain to want this stimulus in ever increasing quantities. **No one can just experiment with heroin, once you use it you are hooked, and in most cases, heroin will lead to death from overdose.**

While we can not totally eradicate the drug problem, we can diminish its effects on society through education. That is the point of this letter. When your child is injured, you do not have to simply accept what the doctor is prescribing for pain. Below is a list of opiate-based drugs, and alternative non-addictive pain killers that can be prescribed instead. Please be aware of your options and ask your doctor or pharmacist these critical questions to save your child from the potential for addiction. Heroin overdoses have increased by over 400% in the last few years. By following this advice, we may finally start witnessing a decrease in opiate addiction, along with overdoses caused by addicts switching to the cheaper fix of heroin. Thank you for your consideration.

Opiate Medication List

www.fda.gov

1	Avinza	Morphine sulfate extended-release capsules	Pfizer
2	Butrans	Buprenorphine transdermal system	Purdue Pharma
3	Dolophine	Methadone hydrochloride tablets	Roxane
4	Duragesic	Fentanyl transdermal system	Janssen Pharmaceuticals
5	**Embeda	Morphine sulfate and naltrexone extended-release capsules	Pfizer

6	Exalgo	Hydromorphone hydrochloride extended-release tablets	Mallinckrodt
7	Kadian	Morphine sulfate extended-release capsules	Actavis
8	MS Contin	Morphine sulfate controlled-release tablets	Purdue Pharma
9	Nucynta ER	Tapentadol extended-release oral tablets	Janssen Pharmaceuticals
10	Opana ER	Oxymorphone hydrochloride extended-release tablets	Endo Pharmaceuticals
11	OxyContin	Oxycodone hydrochloride controlled-release tablets	Purdue Pharma
12	*Palladone	Hydromorphone hydrochloride extended-release capsules	Purdue Pharma

*No longer being marketed, but is still approved.

**Not currently available or marketed due to a voluntary recall, but is still approved.

Generic Products

	Drug Name	Generic Name	Sponsor
1	Fentanyl	Fentanyl extended-release transdermal system	Actavis
2	Fentanyl	Fentanyl extended-release transdermal system	Lavipharm Labs
3	Fentanyl	Fentanyl extended-release transdermal system	Mallinckrodt
4	Fentanyl	Fentanyl extended-release transdermal system	Mylan Technologies
5	Fentanyl	Fentanyl extended-release transdermal system	Noven
6	Fentanyl	Fentanyl extended-release transdermal system	Aveva
7	Fentanyl	Fentanyl extended-release transdermal system	Watson
8	Methadone Hydrochloride	Methadone hydrochloride concentrate	Roxane
9	Methadone Hydrochloride	Methadone hydrochloride tablets	The Pharmanetwork
10	Methadone Hydrochloride	Methadone hydrochloride tablets	Mallinckrodt
11	Methadone Hydrochloride	Methadone hydrochloride tablets	Sandoz
12	Methadone Hydrochloride	Methadone hydrochloride oral solution	Roxane
13	Methadone Hydrochloride	Methadone hydrochloride oral solution	Vistapharm
14	Morphine Sulfate	Morphine sulfate extended-release capsules	Watson
15	Morphine Sulfate	Morphine sulfate extended-release tablets	Endo
16	Morphine Sulfate	Morphine sulfate extended-release tablets	Mallinckrodt
17	Morphine Sulfate	Morphine sulfate extended-release tablets	Mylan
18	Morphine Sulfate	Morphine sulfate extended-release tablets	Nesher
19	Morphine Sulfate	Morphine sulfate extended-release tablets	Ranbaxy
20	Morphine Sulfate	Morphine sulfate extended-release tablets	Rhodes
21	Morphine Sulfate	Morphine sulfate extended-release tablets	Watson Labs
22	Oxymorphone Hydrochloride	Oxymorphone hydrochloride extended-release tablets	Impax
23	Oxymorphone Hydrochloride	Oxymorphone hydrochloride extended-release tablets	Actavis

