Before Taking Opioids

When your prescriber recommends treating your pain with a prescription opioid such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, codeine, or morphine, ask if it is right for you and about alternatives. Additionally you may ask:

How long should I take this medication?
Ask that your prescriber provide you with the lowest dose and the smallest quantity needed to treat your pain. Ask about a plan for the gradual reduction of opioid use during your prescription.

How can I reduce the risk of potential side effects from this medication?
Take your medicine exactly as prescribed. Learn about side effects (such as excessive sleepiness or a feeling of craving more of the medication) and when to call your prescriber or go to the hospital.

What if I have a history of addiction?
Tell your prescriber about any history you or a family member may have had with substance misuse or addiction to drugs or alcohol.

Can I share this medication?
No. What's safe for you might lead to an overdose for someone else.