

**Talk to your health care provider about how to treat your pain.
Create a safe and effective treatment plan that is right for you.**

Alternatives to Opioids: Medications

ADVANTAGES:

- Can control and moderate risk to moderate pain with few side effects
- Can reduce exposure to opioids and dependency

DISADVANTAGES:

- May not be covered by insurance
- May not be effective for severe pain

**Florida
HEALTH**

NON-OPIOD MEDICATIONS	DISCUSSION, ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	Relieve mild to moderate pain, and treats fevers, muscle aches, arthritis, headache, toothache, cold and flu. Overuse can cause liver damage.
Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs): Naproxen, Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), Aspirin (Bayer, Aspirin)	Relieve mild to moderate pain, and reduce swelling and inflammation. Risk of stomach problems increases for people who take NSAIDs regularly. Can increase risk of bleeding.
Nerve Pain Medications: Gabapentin (Neurontin), Pregabalin (Lyrica)	Relieve mild to moderate nerve pain (burning and tingling pain). Can cause dizziness, drowsiness, loss of coordination, headache and blurred vision.
Antidepressants: Duloxetine (Cymbalta, Ixel)	Relieve mild to moderate chronic pain, nerve pain (burning and tingling pain) and headaches. Depending on medication, side effects can include drowsiness, dizziness, stomach issues, constipation, weight loss or gain.
Medicated Creams, Pumps, Gels, Lotions, Ointments, Sprays and Patches: Anesthetics (Lidocaine), NSAIDs, Muscle Relaxants, Capsaicin, Compound Topicals	Can be used to relieve mild to moderate pain because medication is applied where the pain is. Anesthetics relieve nerve pain (burning and tingling pain) by numbing an area. NSAIDs relieve the pain of muscle aches, sprains, arthritis and minor injuries. Capsaicin relieves nerve pain by slowing muscles to become less tense or stiff and capsaicin relieves musculoskeletal and neuropathic pain. Capsaicin topicals prepared by a pharmacist can be customized to meet a patient's specific needs. Skin irritation is the most common side effect. Capsaicin can cause warmth, stinging or burning on the skin.
Interventional Pain Management	Includes epidural or steroid injections around nerves, tendons, joints or around spinal cord stimulating drug delivery systems, or placement of long-term nerve blocks. Medication targets areas of the body. Can provide short-term and long-term relief from pain. Certain medical conditions and changes can cause complications.
Non-opioid Anesthesia	Options can be applied with other medications that block pain during and after surgery. A health care provider or an anesthesiologist can provide options and discuss side effects.