

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 alleviate mild 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-OPIOID MEDICATIONS	DESCRIPTIONS, ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES
Acetaminophen (Tylenol)	Relieves mild-moderate pain, and treats headache, muscle aches, arthritis, backache, toothaches, colds and fevers. <i>Overdoses can cause liver damage.</i>
Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs): Aspirin, Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), Naproxen (Aleve, Naprosyn)	Relieve mild-moderate pain, and reduce swelling and inflammation. <i>Risk of stomach problems increases for people who take NSAIDs regularly. Can increase risk of bleeding.</i>
Nerve Pain Medications: Gabapentin (Neurontin), Pregabalin (Lyrica)	Relieve mild-moderate nerve pain (shooting and burning pain). <i>Can cause drowsiness, dizziness, loss of coordination, tiredness and blurred vision.</i>
Antidepressants: Effexor XR, Cymbalta, Savella	Relieve mild-moderate chronic pain, nerve pain (shooting and burning pain) and headaches. <i>Depending on medication, side effects can include: drowsiness, dizziness, tiredness, constipation, weight loss or gain.</i>
Medicated Creams, Foams, Gels, Lotions, Ointments, Sprays and Patches: Anesthetics (Lidocaine), NSAIDs, Muscle Relaxers, Capsaicin, Compound Topicals	Can be safer to relieve mild-moderate pain because medication is applied where the pain is. Anesthetics relieve nerve pain (shooting and burning pain) by numbing an area; NSAIDs relieve the pain of osteoarthritis, sprains, strains and overuse injuries; muscle relaxers reduce pain by causing muscles to become less tense or stiff; and capsaicin relieves musculoskeletal and neuropathic pain. Compound topicals prepared by a pharmacist can be customized to meet a patient's specific needs. <i>Skin irritation is the most common side effect. Capsaicin can cause warmth, stinging or burning on the skin.</i>
Interventional Pain Management	Includes anesthetic or steroid injections around nerves, tendons, joints or muscles; spinal cord stimulation; drug delivery systems; or permanent or temporary nerve blocks. Medicates specific areas of the body. Can provide short-term and long-term relief from pain. <i>Certain medical conditions and allergies can cause complications.</i>
Non-opioid Anesthesia	Opioids can be replaced with safer medications that block pain during and after surgery. A health care provider or an anesthesiologist can provide options and discuss side effects.