

- With large doses the pupils contract to pinpoints, the skin is cold, moist and bluish, breathing may slow to a complete stop resulting in death.
- Heroin is the most addictive drugs in the world. Withdrawal can include delusions, anorexia, insomnia, and heart palpitations which can last for up to 7 months.

### Facts about Morphine

- The best way to get off of morphine and stay off is to go cold turkey while in a rehabilitation facility.
- Morphine was used during the American Civil War as a surgical anesthetic and wounded soldiers were sent home with it as a pain reliever.
- After the war over 400,000 people were addicted to Morphine.
- Morphine reduces anxiety and fear, and increase the sex drive.



If yourself, or someone you know is struggling with addiction , please contact your local addiction, mental health or medical facility for further information and help.

### Facts about Heroin

- 9 million people are addicted to heroin.
- The term “junkie” came from people who were addicted that collected scrap metal from junk yards to sell in order to buy opiates.
- Heroin accounts for half of all drug related deaths.
- There is 13-18 metric tons of heroin produced a year.
- Average age of abuse is 19.
- Following the civil war, heroin was given to people who were addicted to morphine.
- Typically, heroin abusers will inject up to 4 times a day.
- Heroin users may develop a short lived syndrome called “cotton fever” from reusing cotton swabs for injection.
- Full recovery of a heroin addicts may take up to 6 years.
- 90% of abusers trying to quit will relapse.
- Heroin users will inject anywhere in their body. When “track marks” develop and veins collapse, they will inject into their eye balls.



# Opiates



Box 403, 203 Patricia St.  
 Hudson Bay, SK S0E 0Y0  
 Phone~ (306) 865-3064  
 Fax~ (306) 865-3391

hbfamilyandsupport@sasktel.net  
 www.hbfamilyandsupport.ca

24 Hour Crisis Line  
 (North East Region)  
 1-800-611-6349

## What Are Opiates?

- Opiates are highly addictive painkilling drugs that produce an extreme sense of well being. They derive from the natural opium poppy and illicit opiates are later made in illegal laboratories.
- Types of Opiates are Codeine, Morphine, Heroin and Methadone.
- Opiates were first used to treat children with colic, relieve pain and control diarrhea.
- People used to believe they were completely non-addictive and they could cure every ailment.

## Types of Opiates

There are 3 main groups of Opiates:

1. **Natural**- these are directly from the opium poppy; they include **morphine** and **codeine**.
2. **Semi-synthetic**- these are opiates which are chemically altered; **heroin**.
3. **Synthetic**- these opiates are made in laboratories; **methadone**.

### Street names

**Heroin**- H, horse, junk and smack.

**Morphine**- M, Morph

**Codeine**- pain pills.

**Methadone**- dollies, dillies

**Codeine**- available in tablets, taken orally.

**Morphine**- available in tablets, injectable solutions, and suppositories. Taken intravenously, orally and rectally.

**Heroin**- fine white or brown powder; snorted, smoked, taken orally and injected.

## Codeine

- Codeine is used as a painkiller and a cough suppressant. It is available only with a prescription.
- At low doses it can cause dizziness, light headedness and anxiety.
- At higher doses it can cause sedation, reduced respiration and blood pressure. Also seizures, delirium, coma and fluid in the lungs.
- If you use codeine frequently it can cause lung problems, liver damage and brain damage.
- Tolerance develops rapidly and is highly addictive.
- Withdrawal will include severe anxiety, insomnia and tremors.

## Morphine

- Morphine has been used to control pain since the 19th century.
- Its effects include pain relief, mental clouding and relaxation.
- It can cause nausea, constipation, sweating, itchy skin and slowed breathing.
- With large doses the pupils contract to

pinpoints, the skin is cold, moist and bluish, breathing may slow to a complete stop resulting in death.

- Tolerance develops rapidly and is highly addictive.
- Withdrawal will include severe anxiety, insomnia and tremors.

## Heroin

- Heroin was invented by a chemist from Germany in 1898, for the Bayer company which is still a large distributor of pain medication.
- Heroin was a term coming from the word "heroic", because some said it would make you feel like a hero.
- Heroin is derived from morphine and illegally produced in laboratories.
- The morphine is chemically altered using Varsol, chloroform and ammonia.
- Heroin is usually heated on a spoon until it turns to a liquid form and then it is sucked through a cotton ball to remove impurities and injected.
- When injected there is an initial sensation of warmth, dry mouth, nausea, heaviness in the extremities, itchy skin and a feeling of floating.
- Hepatitis and AIDs are of high risk due to unsterilized needles and other drug paraphernalia.
- Heroin depresses breathing, can cause cardiac arrest and brain damage.