

Substance misuse truth

Anyone can get addicted to pain meds



Meet Josh.

Josh is 28, single, with no major health issues. In a car accident, he breaks his collarbone.



Here's what happens afterward.

Josh has a successful collarbone surgery.	His doctor prescribes an opioid painkiller.	He takes it and notices after a while he can't control pain without it.	He keeps taking the drug. Now his doctor won't prescribe more.	He has withdrawal symptoms, but doesn't tell his doctor.	Josh is so desperate, he gets the drug illegally.	Friends see he's changed. He can't do his job.

If you have chronic pain and take pain medicine, it can be a slippery slope into addiction. If you're having surgery or chronic pain, talk to your doctor about all pain management options. While opioids are generally safe if you take them only when needed for severe pain, and only for a short time, they're **dangerous** if used incorrectly.

Need help? Speak to your family doctor or other health professional right away if you or someone you know could be misusing pain medicine.

This information is a fictional example meant to educate, not serve as medical advice. See your doctor for medical advice about your health.

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