

# Therapeutics Initiative

Better prescribing. Better health.

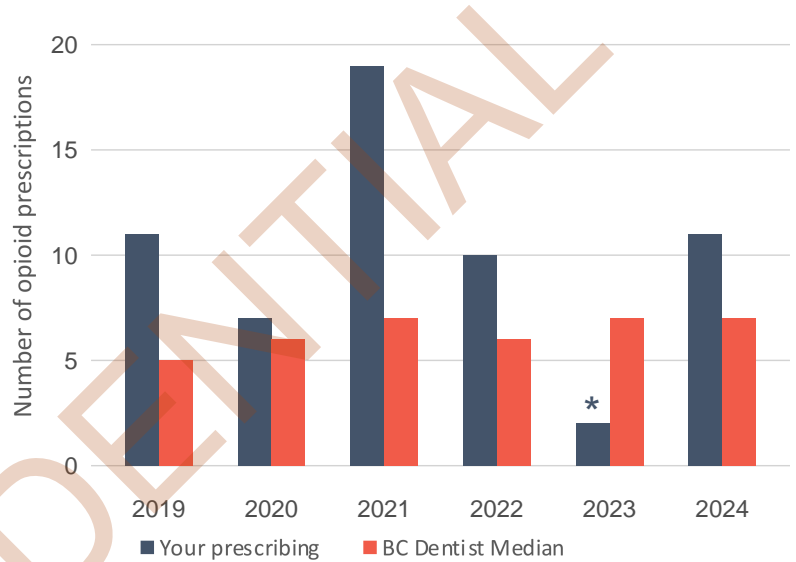
Portrait Code: SAMPLE

## Do you manage dental pain with opioids?

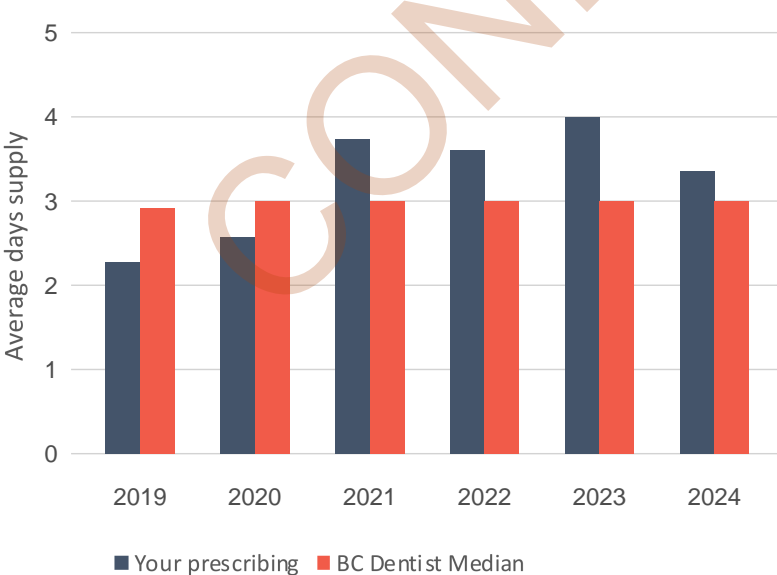
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs, e.g., ibuprofen, naproxen) alone or in combination with acetaminophen provide more effective pain relief and fewer adverse events than opioids (e.g., oxycodone, codeine, and tramadol) after dental extractions or other dental procedures.<sup>1</sup> This Portrait shows your opioid prescribing.

**1. Recommend an NSAID and acetaminophen as first-line therapy to reduce inflammation and pain, not opioids. Prescribe opioids if NSAIDs/acetaminophen are contraindicated or ineffective.**

The number of opioid prescriptions ordered by you (2019 to 2024)



\* Precise numbers are concealed to protect privacy (due to small numbers).



**2. Prescribe the shortest duration and lowest effective opioid dose.**

The average duration, in days, of opioid prescriptions ordered by you (2019 to 2024)



## Recommended first-line options:

### A) NSAIDs

- a. Ibuprofen 200-400 mg every 6-8 hours (maximum daily dose for  $\geq 12$  years = 2400 mg, for  $< 12$  years, see product label)

### B) NSAID plus acetaminophen

- a. NSAID (doses above)
- b. Acetaminophen 500-1000 mg every 4-6 hours (maximum daily dose for  $\geq 12$  years = 4000 mg per day, for  $< 12$  years, see product label)

### C) If NSAIDs are contraindicated, acetaminophen alone is a first-line option

## Prescribing opioids:

Prescribe opioids (including codeine and tramadol) for the shortest duration at the lowest effective dose. See the *Therapeutics Letter* for more details.



Use this QR code to refer your patients to downloadable patient information at [www.ti.ubc.ca/portrait-dental-patient-info](http://www.ti.ubc.ca/portrait-dental-patient-info)



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## REFERENCE

<sup>1</sup>Therapeutics Initiative. Pharmacological management of dental pain and inflammation. *Therapeutics Letter*. 2025 (October) Limited early release; 1-2.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The accuracy of your prescribing Portrait is dependent on the completeness of PharmaNet data; we are unable to capture data on patients who received but did not fill prescriptions.

## DATA & DEFINITIONS

**Patients included:** patients who filled a prescription for an opioid prescribed by you during the study period.

**Dentists included:** general dentists with an active practice in BC, who ordered 10 or more prescriptions of any drug in 2024.

**Drugs included:** any prescription opioid.

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**FOR DETAILED DEFINITIONS AND REFERENCES SEE: [WWW.TI.UBC.CA/PORTRAIT-DENTAL-PAIN](http://WWW.TI.UBC.CA/PORTRAIT-DENTAL-PAIN)**