

# Opioid Misuse Red Flags

## Consider tapering opioids and/or consulting with an addiction specialist when a patient:

- Asks for early refills on an opioid prescription
- Runs out of medication early
- Appears to be over-using (have an over-reliance on) their opioids
- Consistently or frequently misses appointments
- Demands to have their dose increased (without corresponding pain)
- Behaves aggressively (is angry, rude, or uses a threatening manner)
- Show signs of substance use disorder (e.g., alcohol, methamphetamine, cocaine, benzodiazepine, or heroin use)

### Source:

Merlin JA, Young SR, Starrels JL, et al. Managing concerning behaviors in patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain: A Delphi study. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2017;33(2):166-176.