## **Substance misuse truth**

## Anyone can get addicted to pain meds





Here's what happens afterward.









He has





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

Josh is so withdrawal desperate symptoms, he gets but doesn't 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.