

# Commonly Abused Prescription Drugs

National Institutes of Health  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Substances: Category and Name	Examples of Commercial and Street Names	DEA Schedule*/How Administered	Intoxication Effects/Health Risks
<b>Depressants</b>			
Barbiturates	<i>Amytal, Nembutal, Seconal, Phenobarbital</i> : bars, reds, red birds, phennies, tooles, yellows, yellow jackets	II, III, IV/injected, swallowed	<i>Sedation/drowsiness, reduced anxiety, feelings of well-being, lowered inhibitions, slurred speech, poor concentration, confusion, dizziness, impaired coordination and memory/slowed pulse, lowered blood pressure, slowed breathing, tolerance, withdrawal, addiction; increased risk of respiratory distress and death when combined with alcohol</i>
Benzodiazepines	<i>Alivan, Halcion, Librium, Valium, Xanax, Klonopin</i> : candy, downers, sleeping pills, tranks	IV/swallowed	
Sleep Medications	<i>Ambien (zolpidem), Sonata (zaleplon), Lunesta (eszopiclone)</i>	IV/swallowed	<i>for barbiturates—euphoria, unusual excitement, fever, irritability/life-threatening withdrawal in chronic users</i>
<b>Opioids and Morphine Derivatives**</b>			
Codaine	<i>Empirin with Codeine, Fiorinal with Codeine, Robitussin A-C, Tylenol with Codeine, Captain Cody, Cody, schoolboy</i> : (with glutethimide: doors & fours, loads, pancakes and syrup)	II, III, IV/injected, swallowed	<i>Pain relief, euphoria, drowsiness, sedation, weakness, dizziness, nausea, impaired coordination, confusion, dry mouth, itching, sweating, clammy skin, constipation/slowed or arrested breathing, lowered pulse and blood pressure, tolerance, addiction, unconsciousness, coma, death; risk of death increased when combined with alcohol or other CNS depressants</i>
Morphine	<i>Roxanol, Duramorph</i> : M, Miss Emma, monkey, white stuff	II, III/injected, swallowed, smoked	<i>for fentanyl—80–100 times more potent analgesic than morphine</i>
Methadone	<i>Methadose, Dolophine</i> : tizzies, amldone, (with MDMA: chocolate chip cookies)	II/swallowed, injected	<i>for oxycodone—muscle relaxation/twice as potent analgesic as morphine; high abuse potential</i>
Fentanyl and analogs	<i>Actiq, Duragesic, Sublimaze</i> : Apache, China girl, dance fever, friend, goodfella, jackpot, murder 8, TNT, Tango and Cash	II/injected, smoked, snorted	<i>for codeine—less analgesia, sedation, and respiratory depression than morphine</i>
Other Opioid Pain Relievers:			
Oxycodone HCl	<i>Tylox, Oxycotin, Percocet, Percocet, Oxy, O.C., oxycotton, oxycet, hillybilly heroin, percs</i>	II, III, IV/chewed, swallowed, snorted, injected, suppositories	<i>for methadone—used to treat opioid addiction and pain; significant overdose risk when used improperly</i>
Hydrocodone Bitartrate Hydromorphone Oxymorphone	<i>Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet</i> : wike, Watson-387		
Meperidine Propoxyphene	<i>Dilaudid</i> : juice, smack, D, footballs, dillies <i>Opana, Numorphan, Numorphone</i> : biscuits, blue heaven, blues, Mrs. O, octagons, stop signs, O Bomb <i>Demerol, meperidine hydrochloride</i> : demmies, pain killer <i>Darvon, Darvocet</i>		
<b>Stimulants</b>			
Amphetamines	<i>Biphetamine, Dexedrine, Adderall</i> : beannies, black beauties, crosses, hearts, LA turnaround, speed, truck drivers, uppers	II/injected, swallowed, smoked, snorted	<i>Feelings of exhilaration, increased energy, mental alertness/increased heart rate, blood pressure, and metabolism, reduced appetite, weight loss, nervousness, insomnia, seizures, heart attack, stroke</i>
Methylphenidate	<i>Concerta, Ritalin</i> : JLF, MPH, R-ball, Skippy, the smart drug, vitamin R	II/injected, swallowed, snorted	<i>for amphetamines—rapid breathing, tremor, loss of coordination, irritability, anxiety, restlessness/delirium, panic, paranoia, hallucinations, impulsive behavior, aggressiveness, tolerance, addiction</i>
<b>Other Compounds</b>			
Dextromethorphan (DXM)	<i>Found in some cough and cold medications</i> : RoboTripping, Robo, Triple C	not scheduled/swallowed	<i>for methylphenidate—increase or decrease in blood pressure, digestive problems, loss of appetite, weight loss</i> <i>Euphoria, slurred speech/increased heart rate and blood pressure, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, confusion, paranoia, distorted visual perceptions, impaired motor function</i>

\* Schedule I and II drugs have a high potential for abuse. They require greater storage security and have a quota on manufacturing, among other restrictions. Schedule I drugs are available for research only and have no approved medical use. Schedule II drugs are available only by prescription and require a new prescription for each refill. Schedule III and IV drugs are available by prescription, and may be ordered orally. Most Schedule V drugs are available over the counter.

\*\* Taking drugs by injection can increase the risk of infection through needle contamination with staphylococci, HIV, hepatitis, and other organisms. Injection is a more common practice for opioids, but risks apply to any medication taken by injection.