

## **FDA identifies harm reported from sudden discontinuation of opioid pain medicines and requires label changes to guide prescribers on gradual, individualized tapering.**

April 17, 2019

Silver Spring, MD: US Food and Drug Administration; April 9, 2019.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/fda-identifies-harm-reported-sudden-discontinuation-opioid-pain-medicines-and-requires-label>

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Efforts to address the opioid epidemic range from [regulation](#) to changes in pain management. This safety announcement raises awareness of [potential harms](#) associated with rapidly decreasing the dose of or discontinuing opioids for patients who may be physically dependent on the medication. It also announces a requirement regarding changes to prescribing information for opioids to provide expanded guidance on how to safely taper doses. Health care providers should discuss tapering plans with [patients](#) and provide ongoing monitoring and support.