

CONSIDER **LOPERAMIDE ABUSE** IN YOUR DIAGNOSIS



Loperamide (also sold under the brand name Imodium®) is a prescription and over-the-counter medication approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to relieve the symptoms of diarrhea. Loperamide is safe and effective when used as directed. A small number of individuals in Oklahoma may be intentionally misusing loperamide by consuming very high doses in an attempt to self-manage their opioid withdrawal or to achieve a euphoric high.

Taking very high doses of loperamide can lead to serious cardiac events and death.

KNOW THE SIGNS OF LOPERAMIDE TOXICITY

- » **Syncope, or fainting**
- » **Unresponsiveness**
- » **QT interval prolongation**
- » **Torsades de pointes**
- » **Ventricular arrhythmias**
- » **Cardiac arrest**

Treatment for loperamide toxicity is largely supportive. The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology and the American Association of Poison Control Centers published an article in [Clinical Toxicology](#) with recommendations for managing patients with loperamide toxicity in an acute setting.

ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS TO IDENTIFY AND PREVENT LOPERAMIDE ABUSE IN OKLAHOMA

Loperamide will not appear in a standard toxicology screen, and there is no urine test to screen for it. If you suspect a patient is abusing loperamide, ask:

- » **Have you been taking loperamide?**
- » **How much loperamide do you take and how often?**
- » **Are you aware of the severe heart risks associated with overuse, misuse, and abuse of loperamide?**

If a patient reports using more than the approved dose, educate them about the risks and refer them to an appropriate source of treatment for substance use disorder.

Report exposures to Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222.

To learn more, visit **LOPERAMIDESAFETY.ORG**.