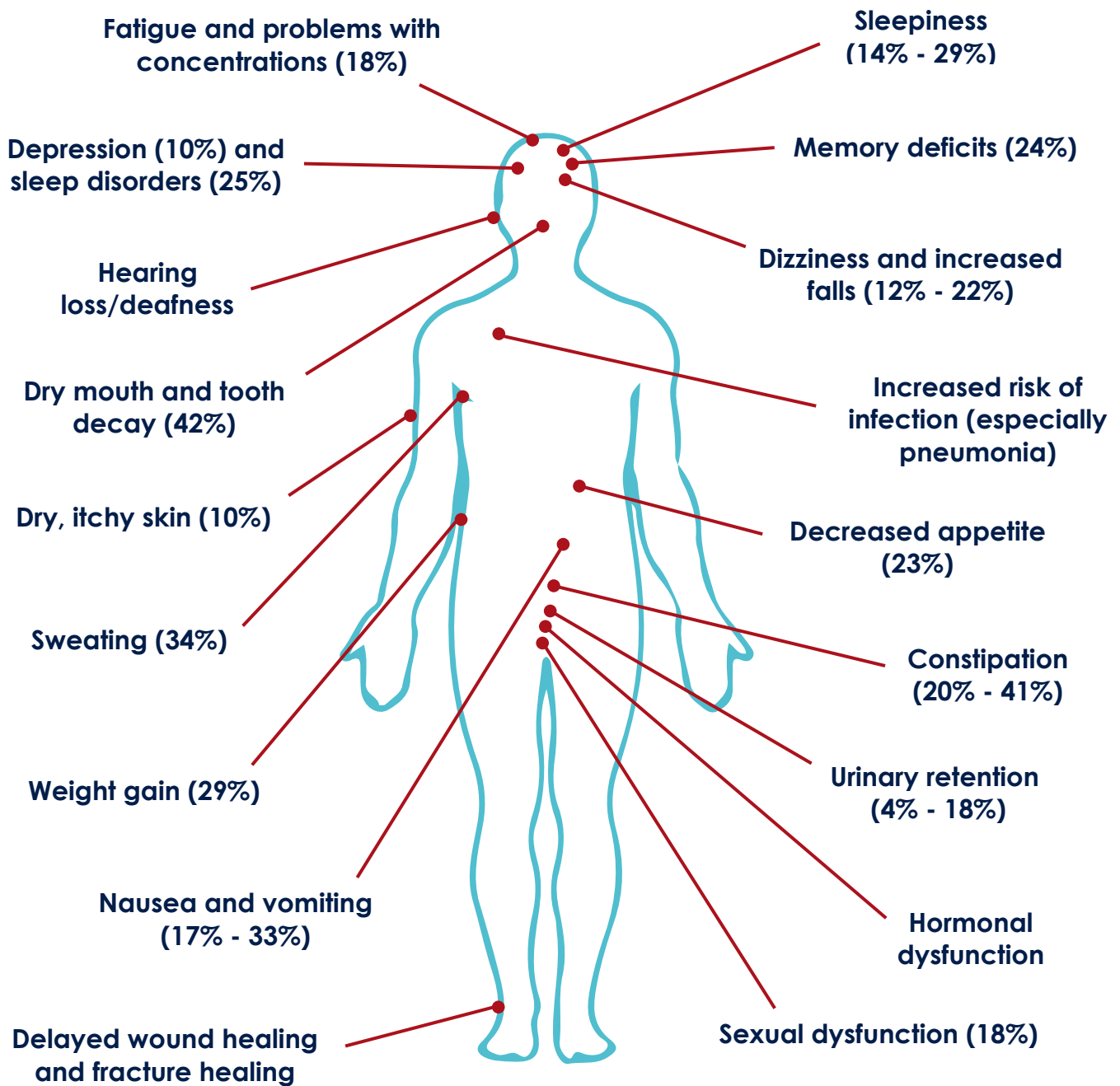




# Opioid Medication Informed Consent





# Compass Opioid Prescribing + Treatment Guidance Toolkit



## Quick Facts

- + 78% of patients have at least one adverse event from opioids.
- + 7.5% experience an event that is life-threatening or requires hospitalization.

## Risks

- + **Hyperalgesia** (increased sensitivity to pain/decreased pain threshold)
  - + Long-term opioid use may make your pain worse.
- + **Opioid dependence**
  - + Opioids cause significant changes within the brain and body.
  - + Dependence is inevitable when taking opioids long term.
  - + Dependence makes it very difficult to stop using opioids.
- + **Opioid addiction**
  - + Addiction is a treatable, chronic medical disease involving interactions among brain circuits, genetics, the environment, and an individual's life experiences. People with addiction may use substances or engage in compulsive behaviors despite harmful consequences.
  - + 2.5 million Americans have an opioid addiction.
  - + Addiction is more common in those taking higher doses.
- + **Overdose and death**
  - + More than 50,000 Americans died of opioid overdose in 2019.
  - + Overdose is the number one killer of Americans under the age of 50 years.
  - + High doses or the use of opioids with benzodiazepines, alcohol, or other depressants significantly increases the risk of overdose.

## Benefits

Opioids can be effective for the short-term treatment of some types of acute pain. Research shows no benefit for the treatment of chronic pain. Potential benefits of opioids include better pain control and increased function.

## Alternatives

- + There are many ways to manage pain, including nonopioid medications, procedures, physical therapy, psychotherapy, and complementary and alternative treatments. Many of these approaches can effectively treat chronic pain and can be used with or instead of opioids.

**I have read the risks, benefits, and alternatives outlined above, and I understand and consent to my proposed opioid treatment.**

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## Patient Signature

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