Product Monograph

Including Patient Medication Information

[N]APO-OXYCODONE CR

Oxycodone Hydrochloride Controlled Release Tablets

For Oral use

5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg, 60 mg and 80 mg

Apotex Standard

Opioid Analgesic

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Recent Major Label Changes

7 Warnings and Precautions, Dependence, Tolerance and/or Abuse Liability	2026-11
7 Warnings and Precautions, Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic	2026-11
7 Warnings and Precautions, Neurologic, Serotonin Toxicity / Serotonin Syndrome	2026-11
7 Warnings and Precautions, Respiratory, Sleep Apnea	2026-11
7 Warnings and Precautions, Gastrointestinal	2026-11
7 Warnings and Precautions, Perioperative Considerations	2026-11
7 Warnings and Precautions, Reproductive Health	2026-11

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Certain sections or subsections that are not applicable at the time of the preparation of the most recent authorized product monograph are not listed.

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Part 1: Healthcare Professional Information

1. Indications

APO-OXYCODONE CR (oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets) is indicated for:

- the management of pain severe enough to require daily, continuous, long-term opioid treatment, and:
    - that is opioid-responsive; and
    - for which alternative options are inadequate.

APO-OXYCODONE CR is not indicated as an as-needed (prn) analgesic.

1.1. Pediatrics

- Pediatrics (<18 years of age): The safety and efficacy of oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets has not been studied in the pediatric population. Therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

1.2. Geriatrics

- Geriatrics (>65 years of age): In general, dose selection for a geriatric patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, concomitant disease or other drug therapy (see 4 Dosage and Administration, 7.1.4 Geriatrics and 10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and Conditions, Geriatrics).

2. Contraindications

APO-OXYCODONE CR is contraindicated in:

- Patients who are hypersensitive to this drug or to any ingredient in the formulation, including any non-medicinal ingredient, or component of the container. For a complete listing, see 6 Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition, and Packaging.
- Patients with known or suspected mechanical gastrointestinal obstruction (e.g., bowel obstruction, strictures) or any diseases/conditions that affect bowel transit (e.g., ileus of any type).
- Patients with suspected surgical abdomen.
- Patients with mild, intermittent or short duration pain that can be managed with other pain medications.
- The management of acute pain.

- Patients with acute or severe bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive airway or status asthmaticus.
- Patients with acute respiratory depression, elevated carbon dioxide levels in the blood, and cor pulmonale.
- Patients with acute alcoholism, delirium tremens, and convulsive disorders.
- Patients with severe CNS depression, increased cerebrospinal or intracranial pressure, and head injury.
- Patients taking monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors (or within 14 days of such therapy) (see 9.1 Serious Drug Interactions).
- Women who are breastfeeding, pregnant, or during labour and delivery (see 3 Serious Warnings and Precautions Box, 7.1.1 Pregnancy, 7.1.2 Breastfeeding, and 7 Warnings and Precautions, Reproductive Health, Teratogenic Risk, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome).

3. Serious Warnings and Precautions Box

- Limitations of Use

  Because of the risks of addiction, abuse, and misuse with opioids, even at recommended doses, and because of the greater risks of overdose and death with controlled release opioid formulations, APO-OXYCODONE CR should only be used in patients for whom alternative treatment options (e.g., non-opioid analgesics) are ineffective, not tolerated, or would be otherwise inadequate to provide appropriate management of pain (see 4 Dosage and Administration).

- Addiction, Abuse, and Misuse

  APO-OXYCODONE CR poses risks of opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death. Each patient's risk should be assessed prior to prescribing APO-OXYCODONE CR, and all patients should be monitored regularly for the development of these behaviours or conditions (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, General, Addiction, Abuse and Misuse). APO-OXYCODONE CR should be stored securely to avoid theft or misuse.

- Life-threatening Respiratory Depression: OVERDOSE

  Serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression may occur with use of APO-OXYCODONE CR. Infants exposed in-utero or through breast milk are at risk of life-threatening respiratory depression upon delivery or when nursed. Patients should be monitored for respiratory depression, especially during initiation of APO-OXYCODONE CR or following a dose increase (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Respiratory, Respiratory Depression).

  APO-OXYCODONE CR must be swallowed whole. Cutting, breaking, crushing, chewing, or dissolving APO-OXYCODONE CR can lead to rapid release and absorption of a potentially fatal dose of oxycodone (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, General, Addiction, Abuse and Misuse).

Further, instruct patients of the hazards related to taking opioids including fatal overdose.

- Accidental Exposure

  Accidental ingestion of even one dose of APO-OXYCODONE CR, especially by children, can result in a fatal overdose of oxycodone (see 11 Storage, Stability, and Disposal, Disposal, for instructions on proper disposal).

- Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome

  Prolonged maternal use of APO-OXYCODONE CR during pregnancy can result in neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, which may be life-threatening (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Reproductive Health, Teratogenic Risk, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome).

- Interaction with Alcohol

  The co-ingestion of alcohol with APO-OXYCODONE CR should be avoided as it may result in dangerous additive effects, causing serious injury or death (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, General and 9.3 Drug-Behavioural Interactions).

- Risks from Concomitant Use with Benzodiazepines or Other CNS Depressants

  Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Neurologic, Interactions with CNS Depressants (including benzodiazepines and alcohol) and 9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions).

  - Reserve concomitant prescribing of APO-OXYCODONE CR and benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are not possible.
  - Limit dosages and durations to the minimum required.
  - Follow patients closely for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation.

4. Dosage and Administration

4.1. Dosing Considerations

- APO-OXYCODONE CR should only be used in patients for whom alternative treatment options (e.g., non-opioid analgesics) are ineffective, or not tolerated, or would be otherwise inadequate to provide appropriate management of pain.

- All doses of opioids carry an inherent risk of fatal or non-fatal adverse events. This risk is increased with higher doses. For the management of chronic non-cancer, non-palliative pain, it is recommended that 60 mg (90 morphine milligram equivalent) daily of APO-OXYCODONE CR not be exceeded. Each patient should be assessed for their risk prior to prescribing APO-OXYCODONE CR, as the likelihood of experiencing serious adverse events can depend upon the type of opioid, duration of treatment, level of pain as well as the patient's own level of

tolerance. In addition, the level of pain should be assessed routinely to confirm the most appropriate dose and the need for further use of APO-OXYCODONE CR (see 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment, Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage).

- APO-OXYCODONE CR tablets must be swallowed whole. Cutting, breaking, crushing, chewing, or dissolving APO-OXYCODONE CR can lead to rapid release and absorption of a potentially fatal dose of oxycodone (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, General, Addiction, Abuse and Misuse).

- APO-OXYCODONE CR 60 mg and 80 mg tablets, or a single dose greater than 40 mg, are for use in opioid tolerant patients only. A single dose greater than 40 mg, or total daily doses greater than 80 mg, may cause fatal respiratory depression when administered to patients who are not tolerant to the respiratory depressant effects of opioids.

- APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be used in the early post-operative period (12 to 24 hours post-surgery) unless the patient is ambulatory and gastrointestinal function is normal (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Perioperative Considerations).

- APO-OXYCODONE CR is not indicated for rectal administration.

- Treatment goals and discontinuation: Before initiating treatment with APO-OXYCODONE CR, a treatment strategy including treatment duration and treatment goals, and a plan for end of the treatment, should be agreed together with the patient, in accordance with pain management guidelines. During treatment, there should be frequent contact between the health care professional and the patient to evaluate the need for continued treatment, consider discontinuation and to adjust dosages if needed.

- APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be used longer than necessary.

- Patients should be advised that they may pass empty matrix “ghosts” (tablets) via colostomy or in the stool, and that this is of no concern since the active medication has already been absorbed.

4.2. Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

- Pediatrics (<18 years of age)

  Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use (see 1.1 Pediatrics).

- Adults (≥18 years of age)

  Individual dosing requirements vary considerably based on each patient's age, weight, severity and cause of pain, and medical and analgesic history. Monitor patients closely for respiratory depression, especially within the first 24 to 72 hours of initiating therapy with APO-OXYCODONE CR.

- Geriatrics (>65 years of age)

In general, dose selection for a geriatric patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range and slowly titrated, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal or cardiac function, concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

Respiratory depression has occurred in the geriatric patient following administration of large initial doses of opioids to patients who were not opioid-tolerant or when opioids were co-administered with other agents that can depress respiration (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Respiratory and 10 Clinical Pharmacology).

- Patients Not Receiving Opioids at the Time of Initiation of APO-OXYCODONE CR Treatment

  The usual initial adult dose of APO-OXYCODONE CR for patients who have not previously received opioid analgesics is 10 mg every 12 hours.

  Use of higher starting doses in patients who are not opioid tolerant may cause fatal respiratory depression.

- Patients Currently Receiving Opioids

  Patients currently receiving other oral oxycodone formulations may be transferred to APO-OXYCODONE CR tablets at the same total daily oxycodone dosage, equally divided into two 12 hourly APO-OXYCODONE CR doses.

  For patients who are receiving an alternate opioid, the "oral oxycodone equivalent" of the analgesic presently being used should be determined. Having determined the total daily dosage of the present analgesic, Table 1 can be used to calculate the approximate daily oral oxycodone dosage that should provide equivalent analgesia. This total daily oral oxycodone dose should then be equally divided into two 12 hourly APO-OXYCODONE CR doses. It is usually appropriate to treat a patient with only one opioid at a time. Further dose reductions should be considered due to incomplete cross-tolerance between opioids.

- Opioid Rotation

  Conversion ratios for opioids are subject to variations in kinetics governed by genetics and other factors. When switching from one opioid to another, consider **reducing the calculated dose by 25% to 50%** to minimize the risk of overdose. Subsequently, up-titrate the dose, as required, to reach the appropriate maintenance dose.

Table 1 – Opioid Conversion Table[a]

Opioids	To convert to oral morphine equivalent	To convert from oral morphine multiply by	Daily 90 mg MED[b]
Morphine	1	1	90 mg
Codeine	0.15	6.67	600 mg
Hydromorphone	5	0.2	18 mg
Oxycodone	1.5	0.667	60 mg
Tapentadol	0.3 - 0.4	2.5 - 3.33	300 mg

Opioids	To convert to oral morphine equivalent	To convert from oral morphine multiply by	Daily 90 mg MED[b]
Tramadol	0.1 - 0.2	6	***
Methadone	Morphine dose equivalence is not reliably established		

*** The maximum recommended daily dose of tramadol is 300 mg to 400 mg depending on the formulation.

[a] Adapted from the 2017 Canadian guideline for opioids for chronic non-cancer pain. McMaster University; 2017

[b] MED. Morphine Equivalent Dose

Patients who are receiving 1 to 5 tablets/capsules per day of a fixed-dose combination opioid/non-opioid containing 5 mg of oxycodone or 30 mg codeine should be started on 10 mg to 20 mg APO-OXYCODONE CR q12h. For patients receiving 6 to 9 tablets/capsules per day of a fixed-dose combination opioid/non-opioid containing 5 mg of oxycodone or 30 mg codeine, a starting dose of 20 mg to 30 mg q12h should be used and for patients receiving 10 to 12 tablets/capsules per day of a fixed-dose combination opioid/non-opioid containing 5 mg of oxycodone or 30 mg codeine, a starting dose of 30 mg to 40 mg q12h is suggested. For those receiving >12 tablets/capsules per day of a fixed-dose combination opioid/non-opioid containing 5 mg of oxycodone or 30 mg codeine, conversions should be based on the total daily opioid dose.

- Patients with Hepatic and Renal Impairment

  The dose initiation should follow a conservative approach in these patients. The recommended adult starting dose in these patients should be at 1/3 to 1/2 the usual starting dose followed by careful dose titration to adequate pain control according to their clinical situation (see 7.1 Special Populations, Hepatic Impairment, 7.1 Special Populations Renal Impairment, 10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and Conditions, Hepatic Insufficiency, and 10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and Conditions, Renal Insufficiency).

- Use with Non-Opioid Medications

  If a non-opioid analgesic is being provided, it may be continued. If the non-opioid is discontinued, consideration should be given to increasing the opioid dose to compensate for the non-opioid analgesic. APO-OXYCODONE CR can be safely used concomitantly with usual doses of other non-opioid analgesics.

- Dose Titration

  Dose titration is the key to success with opioid analgesic therapy. **Proper optimization of doses scaled to the relief of the individual's pain should aim at regular administration of the lowest dose of controlled release oxycodone (APO-OXYCODONE CR) which will achieve the overall treatment goal of satisfactory pain relief with acceptable side effects.**

  Dosage adjustments should be based on the patient's clinical response. In patients receiving APO-OXYCODONE CR, the dose may be titrated at intervals of 24 to 36 hours to that which provides satisfactory pain relief without unmanageable side effects. APO-OXYCODONE CR is designed to allow 12 hourly dosing.

If pain repeatedly occurs at the end of the dosing interval it is generally an indication for a dosage increase rather than more frequent administration of controlled release oxycodone (APO-OXYCODONE CR).

In absence of adequate pain control, the possibility of hyperalgesia, tolerance and progression of underlying disease should be considered.

- Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage

Physical dependence with or without psychological dependence tends to occur with chronic administration of opioids, including APO-OXYCODONE CR. Withdrawal (abstinence) symptoms may occur following abrupt discontinuation of therapy. These symptoms may include body aches, diarrhea, gooseflesh, loss of appetite, nausea, nervousness or restlessness, runny nose, sneezing, tremors or shivering, stomach cramps, tachycardia, trouble with sleeping, unusual increase in sweating, palpitations, unexplained fever, weakness and yawning.

Following successful relief of pain, periodic attempts to reduce the opioid dose should be made. Patients on prolonged therapy should be withdrawn gradually from the drug if it is no longer required for pain control. In patients who are appropriately treated with opioid analgesics and who undergo gradual withdrawal for the drug, these symptoms are usually mild (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Dependence, Tolerance and/or Abuse Liability). Tapering should be individualized and carried out under medical supervision.

Patient should be informed that reducing and/or discontinuing opioids decreases their tolerance to these drugs. If treatment needs to be re-initiated, the patient must start at the lowest dose and titrate up to avoid overdose.

Opioid analgesics may only be partially effective in relieving dysesthetic pain, stabbing pains, activity-related pain and some forms of headache. That is not to say that patients with these types of pain should not be given an adequate trial of opioid analgesics, but it may be necessary to refer such patients at an early time to other forms of pain therapy.

Management of Patients Requiring Rescue Medication

Some patients taking APO-OXYCODONE CR according to a fixed time schedule may require immediate-release analgesics as "rescue" medication for pain. Selection of rescue medication should be based on individual patient conditions. APO-OXYCODONE CR is a controlled release formulation and therefore is not intended for use as rescue medication.

4.4. Administration

APO-OXYCODONE CR may be taken with or without food, with a glass of water.

4.5. Missed Dose

If the patient forgets to take one or more doses, they should take their next dose at the next scheduled time and in the normal amount.

5. Overdose

- Symptoms

  Serious overdosage with oxycodone may be characterized by respiratory depression (a decrease in respiratory rate and/or tidal volume, Cheyne-Stokes respiration, cyanosis), extreme somnolence progressing to stupor or coma, miosis, hypotonia, cold and clammy skin, toxic leukoencephalopathy, delayed post-hypoxic leukoencephalopathy, hypoglycemia and sometimes bradycardia and hypotension. Severe overdosage may result in apnea, circulatory collapse, cardiac arrest, pulmonary edema and death.

- Treatment

  Primary attention should be given to the establishment of adequate respiratory exchange through the provision of a patent airway and controlled or assisted ventilation. The opioid antagonist naloxone hydrochloride is a specific antidote against respiratory depression due to overdosage or as a result of unusual sensitivity to oxycodone. An appropriate dose of an opioid antagonist should therefore be administered, preferably by the intravenous route. The usual initial i.v. adult dose of naloxone is 0.4 mg or higher. Concomitant efforts at respiratory resuscitation should be carried out. Since the duration of action of oxycodone, particularly sustained release formulations, may exceed that of the antagonist, the patient should be under continued surveillance and doses of the antagonist should be repeated as needed to maintain adequate respiration.

  An antagonist should not be administered in the absence of clinically significant respiratory or cardiovascular depression. Oxygen, intravenous fluids, vasopressors and other supportive measures should be used as indicated.

  In individuals physically dependent on opioids, the administration of the usual dose of narcotic antagonist will precipitate an acute withdrawal syndrome. The severity of this syndrome will depend on the degree of physical dependence and the dose of antagonist administered. The use of narcotic antagonists in such individuals should be avoided if possible. If a narcotic antagonist must be used to treat serious respiratory depression in the physically dependent patient, the antagonist should be administered with extreme care by using dosage titration, commencing with 10% to 20% of the usual recommended initial dose.

  Evacuation of gastric contents may be useful in removing unabsorbed drug, particularly when a sustained release formulation has been taken.

For the most recent information in the management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre or Health Canada's toll-free number, 1-844 POISON-X (1-844-764-7669).

6. Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition, and Packaging

Table 2 - Dosage Forms, Strengths, and Composition

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength / Composition	Non-medicinal Ingredients
Oral	Controlled Release Tablet / 5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg, 60 mg and 80 mg	Anhydrous lactose, colloidal silicon dioxide, ethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycol, and titanium dioxide (5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg and 80 mg). In addition, the tablet coatings contain the following: brilliant blue FCF aluminum lake 12% (5 mg), ferric-ferrous oxide, red iron oxide (15 mg), red ferric oxide (20 mg), red iron oxide, black iron oxide, yellow iron oxide (30 mg), yellow ferric oxide (40 mg), red iron oxide (60 mg), indigotine aluminum lake 12% to 14%, sodium phosphate dibasic, sodium phosphate monobasic monohydrate, and yellow ferric oxide (80 mg).

This drug product contains anhydrous lactose. See 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism

Description

APO-OXYCODONE CR 5 mg: Each tablet contains 5 mg oxycodone hydrochloride. Light blue, round, biconvex film-coated tablets, engraved “APO” on one side, “OCD” over “5” on the other side. Available in bottles of 50 and 100 tablets.

APO-OXYCODONE CR 10 mg: Each tablet contains 10 mg oxycodone hydrochloride. White, round, biconvex film-coated tablets, engraved “APO” on one side, “OCD” over “10” on the other side. Available in bottles of 50 and 100 tablets.

APO-OXYCODONE CR 15 mg: Each tablet contains 15 mg oxycodone hydrochloride. Grey, round, biconvex film-coated tablets, engraved “APO” on one side, “OCD” over “15” on the other side. Available in bottles of 50 and 100 tablets.

APO-OXYCODONE CR 20 mg: Each tablet contains 20 mg oxycodone hydrochloride. Light pink, round, biconvex film-coated tablets, engraved “APO” on one side, “OCD” over “20” on the other side. Available in bottles of 50 and 100 tablets.

APO-OXYCODONE CR 30 mg: Each tablet contains 30 mg oxycodone hydrochloride. Light brown, round, biconvex film-coated tablets, engraved “APO” on one side, “OCD” over “30” on the other side. Available in bottles of 50 and 100 tablets.

APO-OXYCODONE CR 40 mg: Each tablet contains 40 mg oxycodone hydrochloride. Yellow, round, biconvex film-coated tablets, engraved “APO” on one side, “OCD” over “40” on the other side. Available in bottles of 50 and 100 tablets.

APO-OXYCODONE CR 60 mg: Each tablet contains 60 mg oxycodone hydrochloride. Red, round, biconvex

film-coated tablets, engraved “APO” on one side, “OCD” over “60” on the other side. Available in bottles of 50 and 100 tablets.

APO-OXYCODONE CR 80 mg: Each tablet contains 80 mg oxycodone hydrochloride. Green, round, biconvex film-coated tablets, engraved “APO” on one side, “OCD” over “80” on the other side. Available in bottles of 50 and 100 tablets.

7. Warnings and Precautions

See 3 Serious Warnings and Precautions Box.

General

APO-OXYCODONE CR must be swallowed whole and should not be chewed, dissolved or crushed. Taking cut, broken, chewed, dissolved or crushed APO-OXYCODONE CR tablets could lead to the rapid release and absorption of a potentially fatal dose of oxycodone.

APO-OXYCODONE CR 60 mg and 80 mg tablets, or a single dose greater than 40 mg are for use in opioid tolerant patients only (see 4 Dosage and Administration). A single dose greater than 40 mg of oxycodone, or total daily doses greater than 80 mg of oxycodone, may cause fatal respiratory depression when administered to patients who are not tolerant to the respiratory depressant effects of opioids (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Respiratory, Respiratory Depression and 9 Drug Interactions).

Patients should be instructed not to give APO-OXYCODONE CR to anyone other than the patient for whom it was prescribed as such inappropriate use may have severe medical consequences, including death. APO-OXYCODONE CR should be stored securely to avoid theft or misuse.

Patients should be cautioned not to consume alcohol while taking APO-OXYCODONE CR, as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects, including death.

Hyperalgesia that will not respond to a further dose increase of oxycodone, may occur at particularly high doses. An oxycodone dose reduction or change in opioid may be required. Please see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Neurologic, Opioid-induced Hyperalgesia.

- Addiction, Abuse and Misuse

  Like all opioids, APO-OXYCODONE CR is a potential drug of abuse and misuse, which can lead to overdose and death. Therefore, APO-OXYCODONE CR should be prescribed and handled with caution. This risk is increased if APO-OXYCODONE CR is taken with alcohol or other CNS depressants.

  Patients should be assessed for their clinical risks for opioid abuse or addiction prior to being prescribed opioids. All patients receiving opioids should be routinely monitored for signs of misuse and abuse.

  Opioids, such as APO-OXYCODONE CR, should be used with particular care in patients with a history of alcohol and illicit/prescription drug abuse and other mental health disorders including, but not limited to, major depression and anxiety. However, concerns about abuse, addiction, and diversion

should not prevent the proper management of pain.

APO-OXYCODONE CR tablets are intended for oral use only. The tablets should be swallowed whole, and not chewed or crushed. With parenteral abuse, the tablet excipients can be expected to result in local tissue necrosis, infection, pulmonary granulomas, and increased risk of endocarditis and valvular heart injury. Abuse of oral dosage forms can be expected to result in serious adverse events, including death.

Carcinogenesis and Genotoxicity

See 16 Non-clinical Toxicology.

Cardiovascular

- Hypotension

  Oxycodone administration may result in severe hypotension in patients whose ability to maintain adequate blood pressure is compromised by reduced blood volume, or concurrent administration of such drugs as phenothiazines or certain anesthetics.

Dependence, Tolerance and/or Abuse Liability

Addiction, Abuse and Misuse: Opioids, such as APO-OXYCODONE CR, should be used with particular care in patients with a personal or family history of alcohol and illicit/prescription drug abuse and other mental health disorders including, but not limited to, major depression and anxiety. However, concerns about abuse, addiction, and diversion should not prevent the proper management of pain.

As with other opioids, tolerance, physical and psychological dependence, as well as opioid use disorder (OUD) may develop upon repeated administration of APO-OXYCODONE CR.

Physical dependence and tolerance reflect the neuroadaptation of the opioid receptors to chronic exposure to an opioid and are separate and distinct from abuse and addiction. Tolerance, as well as physical dependence, may develop upon repeated administration of opioids, and are not by themselves evidence of an opioid use disorder.

Tolerance may occur to both the desired and undesired effects of drugs and may develop at different rates for different effects.

The patient may develop analgesic tolerance to the drug with chronic use.

Prolonged use of this product may lead to physical dependence and a withdrawal syndrome may occur upon abrupt cessation of therapy. When a patient no longer requires therapy with oxycodone, it may be advisable to taper the dose gradually to prevent symptoms of withdrawal (see 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment, Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage). Given the increased risk for serious harms associated with increasing doses, opioid use should be limited to the minimum dose and duration needed to manage pain.

Although the risk of addiction in any individual is unknown, it can occur in patients appropriately prescribed oxycodone hydrochloride tablets. Addiction can occur at recommended dosages and if the drug is misused or abused.

Repeated use of APO-OXYCODONE CR may lead to Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). A higher dose and longer duration of opioid treatment may increase the risk of developing OUD. Abuse or intentional misuse of APO-OXYCODONE CR may result in overdose and/or death. The risk of developing OUD is increased in patients with a personal or a family history (parents or siblings) of substance use disorders (including alcohol use disorder), in current tobacco users or in patients with a personal history of other mental health disorders (e.g., major depression, anxiety and personality disorders).

Before initiating treatment with APO-OXYCODONE CR and during the treatment, treatment goals and a discontinuation plan should be agreed with the patient (see 4.1 Dosing Considerations). Before and during treatment the patient should also be informed about the risks and signs of OUD. If these signs occur, patients should be advised to contact their health care professional.

Patients will require monitoring for signs of drug-seeking behavior (e.g., too early requests for refills). The health care professional should conduct a review of concomitant opioids and psycho-active drugs (like benzodiazepines). For patients with signs and symptoms of OUD, consultation with an addiction specialist should be considered.

Withdrawal symptoms may occur following abrupt discontinuation of therapy or upon administration of an opioid antagonist. Some of the symptoms that may be associated with abrupt withdrawal of an opioid analgesic include body aches, diarrhea, gooseflesh, loss of appetite, nausea, nervousness or restlessness, anxiety, runny nose, sneezing, tremors or shivering, stomach cramps, tachycardia, trouble with sleeping, unusual increase in sweating, palpitations, unexplained fever, weakness and yawning (see 8 Adverse Reactions, and 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment, Adjustment or Reduction of Dosage).

- Use in Drug and Alcohol Addiction

  Oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets is an opioid with no approved use in the management of addictive disorders. Its proper usage in individuals with drug or alcohol dependence, either active or in remission, is for the management of pain requiring opioid analgesia. Patients with a history of addiction to drugs or alcohol may be at higher risk of becoming addicted to APO-OXYCODONE CR; extreme caution and awareness is warranted to mitigate the risk.

- *In Vitro* Dissolution Studies of Interaction with Alcohol

  Among readily available drugs with the established potential to pharmacologically augment the CNS depressant effect of opioids, ethanol also has the potential to chemically interact with the pharmaceutical formulation to accelerate the release of opioids from the dosage form. Given the larger doses of opioids in controlled release opioid formulations on average, the occurrence of such a formulation effect can further augment the risk of serious and unintended respiratory depression. A method to assess the potential for ethanol to accelerate the release of opioids from a pharmaceutical formulation requires the use of *in vitro* dissolution studies using simulated gastric fluid and 40% ethanol.

With oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets, increasing concentrations of alcohol in the dissolution medium (from 0% to 40% v/v), resulted in a slight decrease in the rate of release of oxycodone from intact tablets. Additional *in vitro* dissolution testing in ethanol (40% v/v), conducted with oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets fragments over a range of particles sizes, showed that dose dumping did not occur with the particle sizes tested.

Driving and Operating Machinery

Oxycodone may impair the mental and/or physical abilities needed for certain potentially hazardous activities such as driving a car or operating machinery. Patients should be cautioned accordingly. Patients should also be cautioned about the combined effects of oxycodone with other CNS depressants, including other opioids, phenothiazine, sedatives, hypnotics and alcohol.

Endocrine and Metabolism

- Adrenal Insufficiency

  Cases of adrenal insufficiency have been reported with opioid use including oxycodone, more often following greater than one month of use. Presentation of adrenal insufficiency may include non-specific symptoms and signs including nausea, vomiting, anorexia, fatigue, weakness, dizziness, and low blood pressure. If adrenal insufficiency is suspected, confirm the diagnosis with diagnostic testing as soon as possible. If adrenal insufficiency is diagnosed, treat with physiologic replacement doses of corticosteroids. Wean the patient off of the opioid to allow adrenal function to recover and continue corticosteroid treatment until adrenal function recovers. Other opioids may be tried as some cases reported use of a different opioid without recurrence of adrenal insufficiency. The information available does not identify any particular opioids as being more likely to be associated with adrenal insufficiency.

- Lactate

  This medicinal product contains anhydrous lactose. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine. See 6 Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition, and Packaging

Gastrointestinal

There have been rare post-marketing cases of intestinal obstruction, and exacerbation of diverticulitis, some of which have required medical intervention to remove the tablet. Patients with underlying GI disorders such as esophageal cancer or colon cancer with a small gastrointestinal lumen are at greater risk of developing these complications.

Use caution when prescribing APO-OXYCODONE CR for patients who have difficulty swallowing or any underlying GI disorders that may predispose them to obstruction.

Gastrointestinal motility: Opioids, including APO-OXYCODONE CR, have been shown to decrease bowel

motility. APO-OXYCODONE CR may obscure the diagnosis or clinical course of patients with acute abdominal conditions, and is also contraindicated in patients with potential bowel obstruction, or delayed transit. (see 2 Contraindications , 8 Adverse Reactions , 10 Clinical Pharmacology).

Opioid-Induced Esophageal Dysfunction: Cases of opioid-induced esophageal dysfunction (OIED) in patients taking opioids long-term have been reported. The risk of OIED appears to increase as the dose and duration of opioids increase, but may occur within weeks to months after opioid initiation. The most common esophageal symptoms appear to be dysphagia, gastroesophageal reflux and chest pain. Patients with OIED had high resolution manometry results showing spastic and/or obstructive abnormalities.

Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

When compared to normal subjects, patients with mild to severe hepatic dysfunction may have higher plasma concentrations of oxycodone and noroxycodone, and lower plasma concentrations of oxymorphone. There may be an increase in the elimination half-life of oxycodone, and this may be accompanied by an increase in drug effects.

Dysfunction and Spasm of the Sphincter of Oddi: APO-OXYCODONE CR may cause dysfunction and spasm of the Sphincter of Oddi, and an increase in intrabiliary pressure. Other opioid related effects may include a reduction in biliary and pancreatic secretions or elevations in serum amylase. Therefore, APO-OXYCODONE CR must be administered with caution in patients with pancreatitis and diseases of the biliary tract. Monitor patients with biliary tract disease for worsening symptoms (see 2 Contraindications).

Neurologic

- Interactions with CNS Depressants (including benzodiazepines and alcohol)

  APO-OXYCODONE CR should be used with caution and in a reduced dosage during concomitant administration of other opioid analgesics, general anesthetics, phenothiazines, sedatives, hypnotics, tricyclic antidepressants, antipsychotics, antihistamines, benzodiazepines, gabapentin, pregabalin, baclofen, centrally-active anti-emetics and other CNS depressants, including alcohol. Respiratory depression, hypotension, profound sedation, coma or death may result. When such combination therapy is contemplated, a substantial reduction in the dose of one or both agents should be considered and patients should be carefully monitored. APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be consumed with alcohol as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects (see 9 Drug Interactions).

  Observational studies have demonstrated that concomitant use of opioid analgesics and benzodiazepines increases the risk of drug-related mortality compared to use of opioid analgesics alone. Because of similar pharmacological properties, it is reasonable to expect similar risk with the concomitant use of other CNS depressant drugs with opioid analgesics (see 9 Drug Interactions). If the decision is made to prescribe a benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant concomitantly with an opioid analgesic, prescribe the lowest effective dosages and minimum durations of concomitant use. In patients already receiving an opioid analgesic, prescribe a lower initial dose of the benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant than indicated in the absence of an opioid, and titrate based on clinical response. If an opioid analgesic is initiated in a patient already taking a

benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant, prescribe a lower initial dose of the opioid analgesic, and titrate based on clinical response. Follow patients closely for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation.

Advise both patients and caregivers about the risks of respiratory depression and sedation when APO-OXYCODONE CR is used with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants (including alcohol and illicit drugs). Advise patients not to drive or operate heavy machinery until the effects of concomitant use of the benzodiazepine or other CNS depressant have been determined. Screen patients for risk of substance use disorders, including opioid abuse and misuse, and warn them of the risk for overdose and death associated with the use of additional CNS depressants including alcohol and illicit drugs (see 9 Drug Interactions).

APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be consumed with alcohol as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects, including death (see 2 Contraindications, 8.1 Adverse Reactions Overview, Sedation, and 9.3 Drug-Behavioural Interactions).

Severe pain antagonizes the subjective and respiratory depressant actions of opioid analgesics. Should pain suddenly subside, these effects may rapidly become manifest.

- Use in Patients with Convulsive or Seizure Disorders

  The oxycodone hydrochloride in APO-OXYCODONE CR may aggravate convulsions in patients with convulsive disorders and may induce or aggravate seizures in some clinical settings. Therefore, APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be used in these patients (see 2 Contraindications).

- Serotonin Toxicity / Serotonin Syndrome

  Serotonin toxicity, also known as serotonin syndrome, is a potentially life-threatening condition and has been reported with oxycodone, including APO-OXYCODONE CR, particularly during combined use with other serotonergic drugs (see 9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions).

  Serotonin toxicity is characterised by neuromuscular excitation, autonomic stimulation (e.g., tachycardia, flushing) and altered mental state (e.g., anxiety, agitation, hypomania).

  In accordance with the Hunter Criteria, serotonin toxicity diagnosis is likely when, in the presence of at least one serotonergic agent, one of the following is observed:

  - Spontaneous clonus
  - Inducible clonus or ocular clonus with agitation or diaphoresis
  - Tremor and hyperreflexia
  - Hypertonia and body temperature >38°C and ocular clonus or inducible clonus.

  If concomitant treatment with APO-OXYCODONE CR, and other serotonergic agents is clinically warranted, careful observation of the patient is advised, particularly during treatment initiation and dose increases (9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions). If serotonin toxicity is suspected, discontinuation of the

serotonergic agents should be considered.

- Head Injury

  The respiratory depressant effects of oxycodone and the capacity to elevate cerebrospinal fluid pressure, may be greatly increased in the presence of an already elevated intracranial pressure produced by trauma. Also, oxycodone may produce confusion, miosis, vomiting and other side effects which obscure the clinical course of patients with head injury. In such patients, oxycodone should not be used (see 2 Contraindications).

- Opioid-Induced Hyperalgesia

  Opioid induced hyperalgesia (OIH) is a paradoxical response to an opioid in which pain perception increases despite stable or increased opioid exposure. It differs from tolerance, where higher opioid doses are required to achieve the same analgesic effect or treat recurring pain. Clinically, OIH may be associated with high opioid doses, long term opioid treatment, and intra-operative opioid use. OIH may manifest as an unexplained increase in pain, more diffuse pain than pre-existing, or as pain from normally non-painful stimuli (allodynia), in the absence of disease progression. When OIH is suspected, the dose of opioid should be reduced or tapered off, if possible. It is reasonable to consider opioid rotation, or the use of a non-opioid strategy for pain control. There is currently no well-established treatment for OIH.

Perioperative Considerations

APO-OXYCODONE CR is not indicated for pre-emptive analgesia (administration pre-operatively for the management of post-operative pain).

In the case of planned chordotomy or other pain-relieving operations, patients should not be treated with APO-OXYCODONE CR for at least 24 hours before the operation and APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be used in the immediate post-operative period.

Health care professionals should individualize treatment, moving from parenteral to oral analgesics as appropriate. Thereafter, if APO-OXYCODONE CR is to be continued after the patient recovers from the post- operative period, a new dosage should be administered in accordance with the changed need for pain relief. The risk of withdrawal in opioid-tolerant patients should be addressed as clinically indicated.

The administration of analgesics in the peri-operative period should be managed by health care professionals with adequate training and experience (e.g., by an anesthesiologist).

Oxycodone and other morphine-like opioids have been shown to decrease bowel motility. Ileus is a common post-operative complication, especially after intra-abdominal surgery with opioid analgesia. Caution should be taken to monitor for decreased bowel motility in post-operative patients receiving opioids. Standard supportive therapy should be implemented.

APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be used in the early post-operative period (12 to 24 hours post-surgery) unless the patient is ambulatory and gastrointestinal function is normal.

Surgery on Biliary Tract: Opioid analgesics, including APO-OXYCODONE CR, should be used with caution

in patients about to undergo surgery of the biliary tract, since it may cause spasm of the sphincter of Oddi (see 2 Contraindications).

Renal

When compared to normal subjects, patients with mild to severe renal dysfunction (creatinine clearance <60 mL/min) may have higher plasma concentrations of oxycodone and its metabolites. There may be an increase in the elimination half-life of oxycodone, and this may be accompanied by an increase in drug effects.

Reproductive Health

- **Function**

  Long term use of opiods may be associated with low libido, erectile dysfunction, infertility, impotence, or amenorrhea (see 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions).

- **Fertility**

  Long term use of opioids may be associated with decreased sex hormone levels, increased prolactin.

Respiratory

- Respiratory Depression

  Serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression has been reported with the use of opioids, even when used as recommended. Respiratory depression from opioid use, if not immediately recognized and treated, may lead to respiratory arrest and death. Management of respiratory depression may include close observation, supportive measures, and use of opioid antagonists, depending on the patient's clinical status. Carbon dioxide (CO_2) retention from opioid-induced respiratory depression can exacerbate the sedating effects of opioids. Oxycodone should be used with extreme caution in patients with substantially decreased respiratory reserve, pre-existing respiratory depression, hypoxia or hypercapnia (see 2 Contraindications).

  While serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression can occur at any time during the use of APO-OXYCODONE CR, the risk is greatest during the initiation of therapy or following a dose increase. Patients should be closely monitored for respiratory depression when initiating therapy with APO-OXYCODONE CR and following dose increases.

  To reduce the risk of respiratory depression, proper dosing and titration of APO-OXYCODONE CR are essential (see 4 Dosage and Administration). Overestimating the APO-OXYCODONE CR dose when converting patients from another opioid product can result in a fatal overdose with the first dose.

- Use in Patients with Chronic Pulmonary Disease

  Monitor patients with significant chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or cor pulmonale, and

patients having a substantially decreased respiratory reserve, hypoxia, hypercapnia, or preexisting respiratory depression for respiratory depression, particularly when initiating therapy and titrating with APO-OXYCODONE CR, as in these patients, even usual therapeutic doses of APO-OXYCODONE CR may decrease respiratory drive to the point of apnea. In these patients, use of alternative non-opioid analgesics should be considered, if possible. The use of APO-OXYCODONE CR is contraindicated in patients with acute or severe bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive airway, or status asthmaticus (2 Contraindications).

- Sleep Apnea

Opioids can cause sleep-related breathing disorders such as sleep apnea syndromes (including central sleep apnea [CSA]) and hypoxia (including sleep-related hypoxia). Opioid use increases the risk of CSA in a dose-dependent fashion. Evaluate patients on an ongoing basis for the onset of a new sleep apnea, or a worsening of an existing sleep apnea. In these patients, consider reducing or stopping the opioid treatment if appropriate, using best practices for tapering of opioids (see 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment).

7.1. Special Populations

- Special Risk Groups

Oxycodone should be administered with caution to patients with a history of alcohol and drug abuse and in a reduced dosage to debilitated patients, and in patients with severely impaired pulmonary function, Addison's disease, hypothyroidism, myxedema, toxic psychosis, prostatic hypertrophy, urethral stricture or diseases of the biliary tract.

The administration of opioid analgesics may obscure the diagnosis or clinical course in patients with acute abdominal conditions.

Opioid analgesics, including oxycodone, should also be used with caution in patients about to undergo surgery of the biliary tract, since it may cause spasm of the sphincter of Oddi.

- Hepatic Impairment

In a pharmacokinetic study, patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment had greater plasma concentrations of oxycodone and noroxycodone than subjects with normal hepatic function. Caution should be exercised when prescribing APO-OXYCODONE CR to patients with any degree of hepatic impairment. Initiate these patients at a reduced dose followed by careful titration (see 4 Dosage and Administration and 10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and Conditions, Hepatic Insufficiency).

- Renal Impairment

In a pharmacokinetic study, patients with mild to severe renal impairment had approximately 50% higher plasma concentrations of oxycodone and its metabolites than subjects with normal renal function. Caution should be exercised when prescribing APO-OXYCODONE CR to patients with any

degree of renal impairment. Initiate these patients at a reduced dose followed by careful titration (see 4 Dosage and Administration and 10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and Conditions, Renal Insufficiency).

7.1.1. Pregnancy

Animal reproduction studies have revealed no evidence of harm to the fetus due to oxycodone, however, as studies in humans have not been conducted, APO-OXYCODONE CR is contraindicated in patients who are pregnant (see 2 Contraindications).

Prolonged maternal use of opioids during pregnancy can result in withdrawal signs in the neonate. Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, unlike opioid withdrawal syndrome in adults, may be life-threatening (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Reproductive Health, Teratogenic Risk, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome).

- **Teratogenic Risk**
  - Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS)

    Prolonged maternal use of opioid during pregnancy can result in withdrawal signs in the neonate. Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, unlike opioid withdrawal syndrome in adults, may be life-threatening.

    Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome presents as irritability, hyperactivity and abnormal sleep pattern, high pitched cry, tremor, vomiting, diarrhea and failure to gain weight. The onset, duration, and severity of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome vary based on the specific opioid used, duration of use, timing and amount of last maternal use, and rate of elimination of the drug by the newborn.

    Use of APO-OXYCODONE CR is contraindicated in pregnant women (see 2 Contraindications).

7.1.2. Breastfeeding

APO-OXYCODONE CR is contraindicated during labour, delivery, pregnancy and in nursing mothers. Oxycodone can cross the placental barrier and is also excreted in breast milk. Life-threatening respiratory depression may occur in the infant if opioids are administered to the mother.

Naloxone, a drug that counters the effect of opioids, should be readily available if APO-OXYCODONE CR is used in this population. Respiratory depression may occur in the infant if opioids are administered during labour. Therefore, APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be used during or immediately prior to labour or in nursing mothers.

7.1.3. Pediatrics

Pediatrics (<18 years of age): The safety and efficacy of APO-OXYCODONE CR has not been studied in the pediatric population. Therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

7.1.4. Geriatrics

Geriatrics (>65 years of age): In general, dose selection for a geriatric patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy (see 4 Dosage and Administration and 10.3 Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and Conditions, Geriatrics).

8. Adverse Reactions

8.1. Adverse Reaction Overview

Adverse effects of oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets are similar to those of other opioid analgesics and represent an extension of pharmacological effects of the drug class. The major hazards of opioids include respiratory and central nervous system depression and to a lesser degree, circulatory depression, respiratory arrest, shock and cardiac arrest.

The most frequently observed adverse effects of oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets are asthenia, constipation, dizziness, dry mouth, headache, hyperhidrosis, nausea, pruritus, somnolence, and vomiting.

- Sedation

  Sedation is a common side effect of opioid analgesics, especially in opioid naïve individuals. Sedation may also occur partly because patients often recuperate from prolonged fatigue after the relief of persistent pain. Most patients develop tolerance to the sedative effects of opioids within three to five days and, if the sedation is not severe, will not require any treatment except reassurance. If excessive sedation persists beyond a few days, the dose of the opioid should be reduced and alternate causes investigated. Some of these are: concurrent CNS depressant medication, hepatic or renal dysfunction, brain metastases, hypercalcemia and respiratory failure. If it is necessary to reduce the dose, it can be carefully increased again after three or four days if it is obvious that the pain is not being well controlled. Dizziness and unsteadiness may be caused by postural hypotension, particularly in geriatric or debilitated patients, and may be alleviated if the patient lies down.

- Nausea and Vomiting

  Nausea is a common side effect on initiation of therapy with opioid analgesics and is thought to occur by activation of the chemoreceptor trigger zone, stimulation of the vestibular apparatus and through delayed gastric emptying. The prevalence of nausea declines following continued treatment with opioid analgesics. When instituting therapy with an opioid for chronic pain, the routine prescription of an antiemetic should be considered. In the cancer patient, investigation of nausea should include such causes as constipation, bowel obstruction, uremia, hypercalcemia, hepatomegaly, tumour invasion of celiac plexus and concurrent use of drugs with emetogenic properties. Persistent nausea which does not respond to dosage reduction may be caused by opioid-induced gastric stasis and may be accompanied by other symptoms including anorexia, early satiety, vomiting and abdominal fullness. These symptoms respond to chronic treatment with

gastrointestinal prokinetic agents.

- Constipation

  Practically all patients become constipated while taking opioids on a persistent basis. In some patients, particularly the geriatric or bedridden, fecal impaction may result. It is essential to caution the patients in this regard and to institute an appropriate regimen of bowel management at the start of prolonged opioid therapy. Stimulant laxatives, stool softeners, and other appropriate measures should be used as required. As fecal impaction may present as overflow diarrhea, the presence of constipation should be excluded in patients on opioid therapy prior to initiating treatment for diarrhea.

8.2. Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions. The adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials; therefore, may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse reaction information from clinical trials may be useful in identifying and approximating rates of adverse drug reactions in real-world use.

The following adverse effects occur with opioid analgesics and include those reported in oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablet clinical trials. The reactions are categorized by body system and frequency according to the following definitions: Very common (≥ 1/10); Common (≥ 1/100 to <1/10); Uncommon (≥ 1/1,000 to <1/100); Rare (≥1/10,000 to <1/1,000); Very rare (< 1/10,000), Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

- **Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders:**
  - Not known: lymphadenopathy
- **Cardiac Disorders:**
  - Uncommon: palpitations, tachycardia
  - Not known: ST depression
- **Ear and Labyrinth Disorders:**
  - Uncommon: vertigo, tinnitus
- **Eye Disorders:**
  - Uncommon: miosis, visual impairment
- **Gastrointestinal Disorders:**
  - Very common: constipation, nausea, vomiting

- Common: abdominal pain, diarrhea, dry mouth, dyspepsia
- Uncommon: dysphagia, eructation, flatulence, gastritis, hiccups, ileus, stomatitis
- Not known: biliary spasm

- **General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions:**
  - Common: asthenia, fatigue, fever, hypotonia
  - Uncommon: abnormal gait, chest pain, chills, edema, edema peripheral, malaise, thirst,
  - Not known: opioid tolerance, opioid withdrawal syndrome
- **Immune System Disorders:**
  - Uncommon: hypersensitivity
- **Investigations:**
  - Uncommon: weight loss
- **Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders:**
  - Common: decreased appetite
  - Uncommon: dehydration
  - Rare: increased appetite
- **Nervous System Disorders:**
  - Very common: dizziness, headache, somnolence
  - Common: tremor, lethargy
  - Uncommon: amnesia, convulsion, dysgeusia, hypertonia, hypoaesthesia, migraine, muscle contractions involuntary, paresthesia, speech disorder, syncope
- **Psychiatric Disorders:**
  - Common: abnormal dreams, anxiety, confusional state, depression, insomnia, nervousness, thinking abnormal
  - Uncommon: affect lability, agitation, depersonalization, euphoric mood, hallucination, libido decreased

- Rare: dysphoria
- Not known: delirium, drug dependence

- **Renal and Urinary Disorders:**
  - Uncommon: dysuria, hematuria, polyuria, urinary retention or hesitancy

- **Reproductive System and Breast Disorders**
  - Uncommon: erectile dysfunction
  - Not known: amenorrhea

- **Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders:**
  - Common: dyspnea
  - Uncommon: bronchitis, cough, pharyngitis, yawning
  - Rare: sinusitis
  - Not known: bronchospasm, obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, pneumonia

- **Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders:**
  - Very common: pruritus
  - Common: hyperhidrosis, rash
  - Uncommon: dry skin, exfoliative dermatitis
  - Rare: urticaria

- **Vascular Disorders:**
  - Uncommon: vasodilatation
  - Rare: hypotension, orthostatic hypotension

8.5. Post-Market Adverse Reactions

In addition to the events listed above, the following have been reported during post-marketing experience with oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets. Aggression, anaphylactic reaction, anaphylactoid reaction, central sleep apnea syndrome, cholestasis, dental caries, drug withdrawal syndrome neonatal, hyperalgesia, hypogonadism, increased hepatic enzyme, pulmonary edema, respiratory depression and Sphincter of Oddi dysfunction have been reported during post-marketing

experience with oxycodone.

There have also been post-marketing reports off Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS) in patients treated with oxycodone (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Reproductive Health, Teratogenic Risk, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome).

- **Gastrointestinal disorders:**

  Cases of opioid-induced esophageal dysfunction (OIED) have been reported in patients taking opioids long-term, and in some cases with onset within weeks to months after opioid initiation. The most common esophageal symptoms appear to be dysphagia, gastroesophageal reflux and chest pain.

- **Adrenal insufficiency:**

  Cases of adrenal insufficiency have been reported with opioid use, more often following greater than one month of use (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Endocrine and Metabolism, Adrenal Insufficiency).

- **Androgen deficiency:**

  Chronic use of opioids may influence the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis, leading to androgen deficiency that may manifest as low libido, impotence, erectile dysfunction, amenorrhea, or infertility. The causal role of opioids in the clinical syndrome of hypogonadism is unknown because the various medical, physical, lifestyle, and psychological stressors that may influence gonadal hormone levels have not been adequately controlled for in studies conducted to date. Patients presenting with symptoms of androgen deficiency should undergo laboratory evaluation.

- **Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders:** Hypoglycemia

  Cases of hypoglycemia have been reported in patients taking opioids. Most reports were in patients with at least one predisposing risk factor (e.g., diabetes)

- **Serotonin toxicity/Serotonin syndrome:**

  Cases of serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-threatening condition, have been reported during concomitant use of opioids with serotonergic drugs.

9. Drug Interactions

9.1. Serious Drug Interactions

Serious Drug Interactions
• Concomitant use of opioids and benzodiazepines or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, hypotension, coma, and death (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Neurologic, Interactions with

CNS Depressants (including benzodiazepines and alcohol); 9.4. Drug-Drug Interactions)

- Reserve concomitant prescribing of APO-OXYCODONE CR and benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate
- Consider dose reduction of CNS depressants in situations of concomitant prescribing
- Follow patients for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation

- MAO inhibitors intensify the effects of opioid drugs which can cause anxiety, confusion and decreased respiration. APO-OXYCODONE CR is contraindicated in patients receiving MAO inhibitors or who have used them within the previous 14 days (see 9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions).

9.2. Drug Interactions Overview

- Interactions with CNS Depressants (including benzodiazepines and alcohol)

  Due to additive pharmacologic effect, the concomitant use of APO-OXYCODONE CR with other CNS depressants, including benzodiazepines and alcohol, may increase the risk of respiratory depression, hypotension, profound sedation, coma, and death (see 9.1. Serious Drug Interactions; 9.3. Drug-Behaviour Interactions).

  APO-OXYCODONE CR should be dosed with caution and started in a reduced dosage (1/3 to 1/2 of the usual dosage) in patients who are currently taking other central nervous system depressants (e.g., other opioids, sedatives, gabapentinoids such as pregabalin, baclofen, hypnotics, anti-depressants, phenothiazines, neuroleptics, anti-histamines, anti-emetics) and beta-blockers, as they may enhance the CNS-depressant effect (e.g., respiratory depression) of APO-OXYCODONE CR. APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be consumed with alcohol as it may increase the chance of experiencing dangerous side effects.

- Interactions with Anticholinergics

  Concomitant administration of oxycodone with anticholinergics or medications with anticholinergic activity (e.g., tricyclic antidepressants, antihistamines, antipsychotics, muscle relaxants, anti-Parkinson drugs) may result in increased anticholinergic adverse effects.

9.3. Drug-Behaviour Interactions

The concomitant use of alcohol should be avoided (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, General).

APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be consumed with alcohol as it may increase the risk of experiencing dangerous side effects (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Neurologic, Interactions with CNS Depressants (including benzodiazepines and alcohol)).

9.4. Drug-Drug Interactions

The drugs listed in this table are based on either drug interaction case reports or studies, or potential interactions due to the expected magnitude and seriousness of the interaction (i.e., those identified as contraindicated).

Table 3 - Established or Potential Drug-Drug Interactions:

Non-proprietary name(s) of the drug product(s)	Source of evidence	Effect	Clinical comment
CNS Depressants (e.g., other opioids, benzodiazepines, sedatives, hypnotics, gabapentin, pregabalin, baclofen, antidepressants, anxiolytics, general anesthetics, antipsychotics, phenothiazines, neuroleptics, antihistamines, antiemetics, beta-blockers, alcohol)	T	Due to additive pharmacologic effect, concomitant use may increase the risk of respiratory depression, hypotension, profound sedation, coma, and death.	Reserve concomitant prescribing of these drugs for when alternative treatment options are inadequate. Limit dosages and durations to the minimum required. Follow patients closely for signs of respiratory depression and sedation (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Neurologic, Interactions with CNS Depressants (including benzodiazepines and alcohol)).
Drugs Metabolized by Cytochrome P450 Isozymes	T	Oxycodone is metabolized in part by cytochrome P450 2D6 and cytochrome P450 3A4 pathways. The activities of these metabolic pathways may be inhibited or induced by various co-administered drugs or dietary elements, which may alter plasma oxycodone concentrations.	Oxycodone doses may need to be adjusted accordingly.
Inhibitors of CYP3A4	CT	Since the CYP3A4	If co- administration

Non-proprietary name(s) of the drug product(s)	Source of evidence	Effect	Clinical comment
		isoenzyme plays a major role in the metabolism of APO-OXYCODONE CR, drugs that inhibit CYP3A4 activity, such as macrolide antibiotics (e.g., erythromycin, clarithromycin), azole-antifungal agents (e.g., ketoconazole), and protease inhibitors (e.g., ritonavir) and grapefruit juice may cause decreased clearance of oxycodone which could lead to an increase in oxycodone plasma concentrations. A published study showed that the co-administration of the antifungal drug, voriconazole, increased oxycodone AUC and C_{max} by 3.6 and 1.7-fold, respectively. Although clinical studies have not been conducted with other CYP3A4 inhibitors, the expected clinical results would be increased or prolonged opioid effects.	with APO-OXYCODONE CR is necessary, caution is advised when initiating therapy with, currently taking, or discontinuing CYP450 inhibitors. Evaluate these patients at frequent intervals and consider dose adjustments until stable drug effects are achieved.
Inducers of CYP3A4	CT	CYP450 inducers, such as rifampin, carbamazepine, phenytoin and St.	If co-administration with APO-OXYCODONE CR is necessary, caution is

Non-proprietary name(s) of the drug product(s)	Source of evidence	Effect	Clinical comment
		John's wort, may induce the metabolism of oxycodone and, therefore, may cause increased clearance of the drug which could lead to a decrease in oxycodone plasma concentrations, lack of efficacy or possibly the development of an abstinence syndrome in a patient who had developed physical dependence to oxycodone. A published study showed that the co-administration of rifampin, a drug metabolizing enzyme inducer, decreased oxycodone (oral) AUC and Cmax by 86% and 63% respectively.	advised when initiating therapy with, currently taking or discontinuing CYP3A4 inducers. Evaluate these patients at frequent intervals and consider dose adjustments until stable drug effects are achieved.
Inhibitors of CYP2D6	CT	Oxycodone is metabolized in part to oxymorphone via cytochrome CYP2D6.	While this pathway may be blocked by a variety of drugs (e.g., certain cardiovascular drugs including amiodarone and quinidine as well as polycyclic antidepressants), such blockade has not been shown to be of clinical significance during oxycodone treatment.
Administration with Mixed Activity Agonist/Antagonist Opioids	T	In this situation, mixed agonist/antagonist analgesics may reduce the analgesic effect of oxycodone and/or	Mixed agonist/antagonist opioid analgesics (i.e., pentazocine, nalbuphine, butorphanol, and

Non-proprietary name(s) of the drug product(s)	Source of evidence	Effect	Clinical comment
		may precipitate withdrawal symptoms in these patients	buprenorphine) should be administered with caution to a patient who has received or is receiving a course of therapy with a pure opioid agonist analgesic such as oxycodone.
MAO Inhibitors	T	MAO inhibitors intensify the effects of opioid drugs which can cause anxiety, confusion and decreased respiration.	APO-OXYCODONE CR is contraindicated in patients receiving MAO inhibitors or who have used them within the previous 14 days (see 2 Contraindications).
Warfarin and Other Coumarin Anticoagulants	C	Clinically relevant changes in International Normalized Ratio (INR or Quick-value) in both directions have been observed in individuals when oxycodone and coumarin anticoagulants are co-administered.	Because alterations in anticoagulant response have been reported during concomitant use, careful clinical monitoring and regular assessment of PT/INR (PT = Prothrombin Time; INR = International Normalized Ratio) are recommended.
Serotonergic Agents	C	Co-administration of oxycodone hydrochloride with a serotonergic agent, such as a Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitor (SSRI) or a Serotonin Norepinephrine Re-uptake Inhibitor (SNRI), may increase the risk of serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-	Monitor patients carefully, particularly during treatment initiation and dose escalation. If serotonin syndrome is suspected, discontinue APO-OXYCODONE CR and/or the serotonergic agent and provide appropriate medical treatment.

Non-proprietary name(s) of the drug product(s)	Source of evidence	Effect	Clinical comment
		threatening condition (see 7 Warnings and Precautions, Neurologic, Serotonin Toxicity/Serotonin Syndrome).	

Legend: C = Case Study; CT = Clinical Trial; T = Theoretical; PBPK = Physiologically based pharmacokinetic modelling; popPK = Population pharmacokinetic modelling

9.5. Drug-Food Interactions

Administration of oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablet with food results in an increase in peak plasma oxycodone concentration of up to 1.5-fold but has no significant effect on the extent of absorption of oxycodone.

9.6. Drug-Herb Interactions

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

9.7. Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions

Interactions with laboratory tests have not been established.

10. Clinical Pharmacology

10.1. Mechanism of Action

Oxycodone is a semi-synthetic opioid analgesic which exerts an agonist effect at specific, saturable opioid receptors in the CNS and other tissues. In man, oxycodone produces a variety of effects including analgesia, constipation from decreased gastrointestinal motility, suppression of the cough reflex, respiratory depression from reduced responsiveness of the respiratory center to CO_2, nausea and vomiting via stimulation of the chemoreceptor trigger zone, changes in mood including euphoria and dysphoria, sedation, mental clouding, and alterations of the endocrine and autonomic nervous systems.

10.2. Pharmacodynamics

Oxycodone retains at least one-half of its analgesic activity when administered orally and with acute dosing is approximately twice as potent as orally administered morphine.

There is no intrinsic limit to the analgesic effect of oxycodone; like morphine, adequate doses will relieve even the most severe pain. Clinically however, dosage limitations are imposed by the adverse effects, primarily respiratory depression, nausea and vomiting, which can result from high doses.

Oxycodone and related μ-agonist opioids produce their major effects on the CNS and the bowel by

acting at specific saturable opioid receptors in the CNS and other tissues. The effects include analgesia, drowsiness, changes in mood, respiratory depression, cough suppression, decreased gastrointestinal motility, nausea, vomiting, and alterations of the endocrine and autonomic nervous systems.

Oxycodone receptor selectivity has not been extensively studied or characterized, and there appears to be a discrepancy between its weak affinity for opioid receptors and its potent antinociceptive activity.

Oxycodone has been shown to be 2 to 4 times more potent than morphine after both subcutaneous and intraperitoneal administration in rats. In clinical studies in patients with acute post-operative pain, oxycodone has been demonstrated to be twice as potent as morphine.

- **Cardiovascular System**

  Oxycodone may produce release of histamine with or without associated peripheral vasodilatation. Manifestations of histamine release and/or peripheral vasodilatation may include pruritus, flushing, red eyes, hyperhidrosis and/or orthostatic hypotension.

- **Central Nervous System**

  Oxycodone produces respiratory depression by direct action on brain stem respiratory centres. The respiratory depression involves both a reduction in the responsiveness of the brain stem centres to increases in carbon dioxide (CO_2) tension and to electrical stimulation.

  Oxycodone depresses the cough reflex by direct effect on the cough centre in the medulla. Antitussive effects may occur with doses lower than those usually required for analgesia.

  Oxycodone causes miosis, even in total darkness. Pinpoint pupils are a sign of opioid overdose but are not pathognomonic (e.g., pontine lesions of hemorrhagic or ischemic origin may produce similar findings). Marked mydriasis rather than miosis may be seen with hypoxia in the setting of oxycodone overdose.

- **Endocrine System**

  Opioids may influence the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal or -gonadal axes. Some changes that can be seen include an increase in serum prolactin and decreases in plasma cortisol and testosterone. Clinical signs and symptoms may be manifest from these hormonal changes.

- **Gastrointestinal Tract and Other Smooth Muscle**

  Opioids may cause a reduction in motility associated with an increase in smooth muscle tone in the antrum of the stomach and duodenum. Digestion of food in the small intestine is delayed and propulsive contractions are decreased. Propulsive peristaltic waves in the colon are decreased, while tone may be increased to the point of spasm resulting in constipation. Other opioid-induced effects may include a reduction in gastric, biliary and pancreatic secretions, spasm of the sphincter of Oddi, and transient elevations in serum amylase.

- **Hepatobiliary System**

Opioids may induce biliary spasm.

- **Immune System**

  In vitro and animal studies indicate that opioids have a variety of effects on immune functions, depending on the context in which they are used. The clinical significance of these findings is unknown.

- **Concentration – Efficacy Relationships**

  Studies in normal volunteers and patients reveal predictable relationships between oxycodone dosage and plasma oxycodone concentrations, as well as between concentration and certain expected opioid effects, such as papillary constriction, sedation, overall subjective "drug effect", analgesia and feelings of "relaxation".

  The minimum effective analgesic concentration will vary widely among patients, especially among patients who have been previously treated with potent agonist opioids. As a result, patients must be treated with individualized titration of dosage to the desired effect. The minimum effective analgesic concentration of oxycodone for any individual patient may increase over time due to an increase in pain, the development of a new pain syndrome and/or the development of analgesic tolerance.

- **Concentration – Adverse Reaction Relationship**

  There is a significant relationship between increasing oxycodone plasma concentrations and increasing frequency of dose-related opioid adverse reactions such as nausea, vomiting, CNS effects, and respiratory depression. In opioid-tolerant patients, the situation may be altered by the development of tolerance to opioid-related side effects.

  The dose of APO-OXYCODONE CR must be individualized (see 4 Dosage and Administration) because the effective analgesic dose for some patients will be too high to be tolerated by other patients.

10.3. Pharmacokinetics

The activity of APO-OXYCODONE CR is primarily due to the parent drug oxycodone. APO-OXYCODONE CR is designed to provide delivery of oxycodone over 12 hours.

Cutting, breaking, chewing, crushing or dissolving APO-OXYCODONE CR impairs the controlled release delivery mechanism and could lead to the rapid release and absorption of a potentially fatal dose of oxycodone.

Pharmacokinetic studies of oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets in normal volunteers demonstrate that both AUC and C_{max} increase in a dose proportional manner and that the six tablet strengths are bioequivalent. In single dose studies, oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablet was absorbed to an equivalent extent as immediate release oxycodone but with a reduced maximum concentration (C_{max} ratio approximately 50%), a prolonged (2.4x) time to maximum concentration (t_{max} approximately 2.8 hours), with a biphasic absorption pattern, with two apparent absorption half-times

of 0.6 and 6.9 hours, which describe the initial release of oxycodone from the tablet, followed by a prolonged release. Release *in vitro* is pH-independent.

In steady state pharmacokinetic studies of oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets q12h, maximum plasma concentrations (C_{max}) of oxycodone were equivalent to those obtained with q6h administration of oral immediate release preparations and was achieved approximately 3 hours after administration of oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets. Steady-state was achieved within 24 to 36 hours of initiation of dosing. The absorption of oxycodone from oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets is not significantly influenced when administered in the presence of food.

Absorption

About 60% to 87% of an oral dose of oxycodone reaches the central compartment in comparison to a parenteral dose. The high oral bioavailability is due to low pre-systemic and/or first-pass metabolism.

- Food Effects

  In controlled studies in healthy volunteers, administration of oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets with a high fat meal resulted in a 1.3- to 1.5-fold increase in peak plasma oxycodone concentration but had no significant effect on the extent of absorption of oxycodone.

Distribution

Following intravenous administration, the steady-state volume of distribution (V_{ss}) for oxycodone was 2.6 L/kg. Oxycodone binding to plasma protein at 37°C and a pH of 7.4 was about 45%. Once absorbed, oxycodone is distributed to skeletal muscle, liver, intestinal tract, lungs, spleen, and brain. Oxycodone has been found in breast milk.

Metabolism

Oxycodone is extensively metabolized by multiple metabolic pathways to produce noroxycodone, oxymorphone and noroxymorphone, which are subsequently glucuronidated. Noroxycodone and noroxymorphone are the major circulating metabolites. CYP3A mediated N demethylation to noroxycodone is the primary metabolic pathway of oxycodone with a lower contribution from CYP2D6 mediated O-demethylation to oxymorphone. Therefore, the formation of these and related metabolites can, in theory, be affected by other drugs (see 9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions).

Noroxycodone exhibits very weak anti-nociceptive potency compared to oxycodone, however, it undergoes further oxidation to produce noroxymorphone, which is active at opioid receptors. Although noroxymorphone is an active metabolite and is present at relatively high concentrations in circulation, it does not appear to cross the blood-brain barrier to a significant extent.

Oxymorphone has been shown to be active and possessing analgesic activity but its contribution to analgesia following oxycodone administration is thought to be clinically insignificant. Other metabolites (α- and β-oxycodol, noroxycodol and oxymorphol) may be present at very low concentrations and demonstrate limited penetration into the brain as compared to oxycodone. The enzymes responsible for keto-reduction and glucuronidation pathways in oxycodone metabolism have not been established.

Oxycodone has an elimination half-life of approximately 4.5 hours.

Elimination

Oxycodone and its metabolites are excreted in both urine and feces. The amounts measured in the urine have been reported as follows: free and conjugated oxycodone 8.9%, free noroxycodone 23%, free oxymorphone less than 1%, conjugated oxymorphone 10%, free and conjugated noroxymorphone 14%, reduced free and conjugated metabolites up to 18%. The total plasma clearance was approximately 1.4 L/min in adults.

Special populations and conditions

- **Pediatrics (<18 years of age)**

  Oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets has not been studied in children and is not indicated for patients less than 18 years of age.

- **Geriatrics (>65 years of age)**

  Plasma concentrations of oxycodone are increased by approximately 15% in geriatric subjects receiving oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets. In general, dose selection for a geriatric patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

- **Genetic polymorphism**

  No data available.

- **Ethnic origin**

  No data available.

- **Hepatic Insufficiency**

  Patients with mild to moderate hepatic dysfunction showed peak plasma oxycodone and noroxycodone concentrations approximately 50% and 20% higher, respectively, than normal subjects. AUC values were approximately 95% and 75% higher, respectively. Oxymorphone peak plasma concentrations and AUC values were lower by 15% to 50%. The $t_{1/2}$ elimination for oxycodone increased by 2.3 hours.

  Plasma concentrations of oxycodone are increased by approximately 2-fold in patients with hepatic cirrhosis.

- **Renal Insufficiency**

  Patients with mild to severe renal dysfunction showed peak plasma oxycodone and noroxycodone

concentrations 50% and 20% higher, respectively, and AUC values for oxycodone, noroxycodone, and oxymorphone 60%, 50%, and 40% higher than normal subjects, respectively. This was accompanied by an increase in sedation but not by differences in respiratory rate, pupillary constriction, or several other measures of drug effect. There was an increase in mean elimination $t_{1/2}$ for oxycodone of 1 hour.

Abuse of oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets can lead to overdose and death (see 3 Serious Warnings and Precautions Box).

11. Storage, Stability, and Disposal

- Storage

  Store APO-OXYCODONE CR tablets between 15°C to 30°C. Keep in a cool, dry place.

- Disposal

  APO-OXYCODONE CR should never be disposed of in household trash. Disposal via a pharmacy take back program is recommended.

  Unused or expired APO-OXYCODONE CR should be properly disposed of as soon as it is no longer needed to prevent accidental exposure to others, including children or pets. APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be shared with others and steps should be taken to protect it from theft or misuse. The patient should speak to their pharmacist about temporary storage options, if required, until the medication can be returned to the pharmacy for safe disposal.

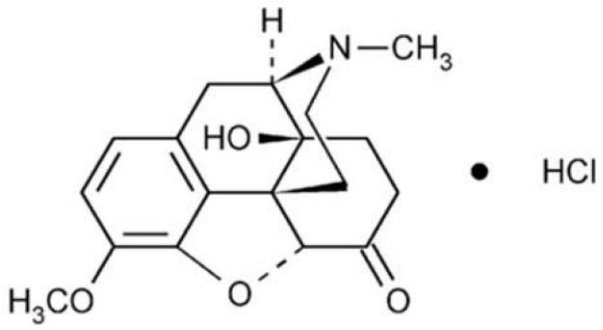
12. Special Handling Instructions

APO-OXYCODONE CR should be kept in a safe place, such as under lock and out of the sight and reach of children before, during and after use. APO-OXYCODONE CR should not be used in front of children since they may copy these actions.

Part 2: Scientific Information

13. Pharmaceutical Information

Drug Substance

Non-proprietary name of the drug substance(s):	Oxycodone hydrochloride
Chemical name:	4, 5αEpoxy-14-hydroxy-3-methoxy-17-methylmorphinan-6-one hydrochloride
Molecular formula and molecular mass:	$C_{18}H_{21}NO_4 \cdot HCl$, 351.83 g/mol
Structural formula:	
Physicochemical properties:	Oxycodone is a semi-synthetic derivative of the naturally occurring opium alkaloid, thebaine.
Appearance:	White to off-white, odourless, crystalline powder.
Solubility:	Soluble in water, slightly soluble in alcohol.
Melting Point:	218° to 223°C.

14. Clinical Trials

Studies with controlled release (CR) oxycodone hydrochloride tablets and immediate release (IR) oxycodone hydrochloride tablets in normal volunteers and patients demonstrate a consistent relationship between oxycodone dosage and plasma oxycodone concentrations as well as between concentration and pharmacodynamic effects. In a single dose analgesic assay, the peak effect of CR oxycodone (20 mg and 30 mg) was greater than that of 10 mg CR oxycodone and was equivalent to that of two tablets of oxycodone (5 mg) plus acetaminophen (325 mg), or 15 mg of immediate release oxycodone but with a longer duration of action. In patients with pain due to osteoarthritis, CR oxycodone q12h was more effective than placebo in decreasing pain and in improving quality of life, mood and sleep. In patients with cancer pain, CR oxycodone administered q12h produced equivalent analgesia to IR oxycodone administered four times per day. In patients with low back pain, CR oxycodone q12h and IR oxycodone given four times per day were equally effective. Titration to analgesic effect was achieved as easily with oxycodone hydrochloride controlled release tablets as with immediate release oxycodone hydrochloride tablets.

14.2. Comparative Bioavailability Studies

A single dose, oral comparative bioavailability study of APO-OXYCODONE CR 40 mg tablets versus OxyContin® 40 mg tablets was conducted in healthy adult male volunteers under fasting conditions. The results from 17 volunteers who completed the study are summarized in the following table:

Table 4 - Summary Table of the Comparative Bioavailability Data

Oxycodone (1 x 40 mg) Geometric mean Arithmetic mean (CV %)				
Parameter	**Test[1]**	**Reference[2]**	**% Ratio of geometric means**	**90% Confidence Interval**
AUC_T (ng·h/mL)	491.578 511.922 (29.1)	474.566 493.646 (29.9)	103.6	96.3 - 111.4
AUC_I (ng·h/mL)	498.191 519.225 (29.4)	485.032 504.436 (30.0)	102.7	95.5 - 110.5
C_{MAX} (ng/mL)	43.876 45.042 (24.5)	39.544 40.650 (24.0)	111.0	102.6 - 120.0
T_{MAX}[3] (h)	3.00 (1.00 - 6.00)	3.50 (0.66 - 8.00)		
$T_{½}$[4] (h)	4.81 (14.6)	5.36 (30.9)		

[1] APO-OXYCODONE CR (oxycodone hydrochloride) tablets, 40 mg, Apotex Inc.
[2] OxyContin ® CR (oxycodone hydrochloride) tablets, 40 mg, Purdue Pharma Inc., Canada
[3] Expressed as the median (range) only.
[4] Expressed as the arithmetic mean (CV%) only.

A single dose, oral comparative bioavailability study of APO-OXYCODONE CR 5 mg tablets versus OxyContin® 5 mg tablets was conducted in healthy adult male and female volunteers under fasting conditions. The results from 12 volunteers who completed the study are summarized in the following table:

Table 5 - Summary Table of the Comparative Bioavailability Data

Oxycodone (1 x 5 mg) Geometric mean Arithmetic mean (CV %)				
Parameter	**Test[1]**	**Reference[2]**	**% Ratio of geometric means**	**90% Confidence Interval**
AUC_T (ng·h/mL)	49.674 51.007 (22.1)	51.938 53.699 (24.6)	95.6	91.7 - 99.8
AUC_I (ng·h/mL)	53.974 55.289 (21.1)	55.688 57.516 (24.3)	96.9	92.6 - 101.4

Oxycodone (1 x 5 mg) Geometric mean Arithmetic mean (CV %)				
Parameter	**Test[1]**	**Reference[2]**	**% Ratio of geometric means**	**90% Confidence Interval**
C_{MAX} (ng/mL)	4.861 5.128 (32.3)	5.060 5.293 (29.1)	96.1	87.2 - 105.8
T_{MAX}[3] (h)	3.00 (2.00 – 5.00)	2.75 (1.50 – 6.00)		
$T_{½}$[4] (h)	6.16 (23.1)	5.59 (24.0)		

[1] APO-OXYCODONE CR (oxycodone hydrochloride) tablets, 5 mg, Apotex Inc.
[2] OxyContin® CR (oxycodone hydrochloride) tablets, 5 mg, Purdue Pharma Inc., Canada
[3] Expressed as the median (range) only.
[4] Expressed as the arithmetic mean (CV%) only.

A single dose, oral comparative bioavailability study of APO-OXYCODONE CR 40 mg tablets versus OxyContin® 40 mg tablets was conducted in healthy adult male volunteers under fed conditions. The results from 13 volunteers who completed the study are summarized in the following table:

Table 6 - Summary Table of the Comparative Bioavailability Data

Oxycodone (1 x 40 mg) Geometric mean Arithmetic mean (CV %)				
Parameter	**Test[1]**	**Reference[2]**	**% Ratio of geometric means**	**90% Confidence Interval**
AUC_T (ng·h/mL)	553.184 586.882 (31.3)	577.333 597.251 (22.9)	95.8	86.2 - 106.5
AUC_I (ng·h/mL)	593.152 635.063 (27.7)	588.839 620.249 (21.9)	100.7	90.5 - 112.1
C_{MAX} (ng/mL)	56.781 60.862 (36.0)	61.266 62.783 (19.2)	92.7	80.4 - 106.9
T_{MAX}[3] (h)	4.50 (1.00 - 5.00)	5.00 (2.00 - 5.50)		
$T_{½}$[4] (h)	6.89 (64.7)	5.30 (19.0)		

[1] APO-OXYCODONE CR (oxycodone hydrochloride) tablets, 40 mg, Apotex Inc.
[2] OxyContin® CR (oxycodone hydrochloride) tablets, 40 mg, Purdue Pharma Inc., Canada
[3] Expressed as the median (range) only.
[4] Expressed as the arithmetic mean (CV%) only.

A single dose, oral comparative bioavailability study of APO-OXYCODONE CR 5 mg tablets versus OxyContin® 5 mg tablets was conducted in healthy adult male and female volunteers under fed conditions. The results from 13 volunteers who completed the study are summarized in the following table:

Table 7 - Summary Table of the Comparative Bioavailability Data

Oxycodone (1 x 5 mg) Geometric mean Arithmetic mean (CV %)				
Parameter	**Test[1]**	**Reference[2]**	**% Ratio of geometric means**	**90% Confidence Interval**
AUC_T (ng·h/mL)	61.813 65.096 (32.8)	69.273 71.478 (23.8)	89.2	83.8 - 95.1
AUC_∞ (ng·h/mL)	67.788 71.323 (30.0)	71.916 74.087 (23.1)	94.3	87.9 - 101.1
C_{max} (ng/mL)	6.329 6.532 (25.6)	7.536 7.704 (19.1)	84.0	73.0 - 96.7
T_{max}[3] (h)	3.00 (1.00 – 5.50)	3.00 (2.00 – 5.50)		
$t_{½}$[4] (h)	7.40 (43.1)	4.72 (8.2)		

[1] APO-OXYCODONE CR (oxycodone hydrochloride) tablets, 5 mg, Apotex Inc.
[2] OxyContin® CR (oxycodone hydrochloride) tablets, 5 mg, Purdue Pharma Inc., Canada
[3] Expressed as the median (range) only.
[4] Expressed as the arithmetic mean (CV%) only.

A multiple dose, oral comparative bioavailability study of APO-OXYCODONE CR 40 mg tablets versus OxyContin® 40 mg tablets was conducted in healthy adult male volunteers under steady state conditions. The results from 14 volunteers who completed the study are summarized in the following table:

Table 8 - Summary Table of the Comparative Bioavailability Data

Oxycodone (1 x 40 mg tablets; q12h for 7 doses) Geometric mean Arithmetic mean (CV %)				
Parameter	**Test[1]**	**Reference[2]**	**% Ratio of geometric means**	**90% Confidence Interval**
AUC_{tau} (ng·h/mL)	548.888 556.601 (17.6)	557.556 567.810 (20.1)	98.5	91.9 - 105.5
C_{MAX} (ng/mL)	63.832 64.570 (16.1)	68.220 69.390 (19.5)	93.6	87.7 - 99.8
C_{min} (ng/mL)	21.485 22.405 (28.2)	23.804 24.480 (21.8)	90.3	79.8 - 102.1
T_{MAX}[3] (h)	2.50 (1.00 - 3.50)	2.50 (1.00 - 5.00)		

[1] APO-OXYCODONE CR (oxycodone hydrochloride) tablets, 40 mg, Apotex Inc.
[2] OxyContin® CR (oxycodone hydrochloride) tablets, 40 mg, Purdue Pharma Inc., Canada
[3] Expressed as the median (range) only.

15. Microbiology

No microbiological information is required for this drug product.

16. Non-Clinical Toxicology

General toxicology

The LD_{50} after subcutaneous administration of oxycodone in mice was 275 mg/kg to 340 mg/kg. The lowest lethal dose has been reported to be 200 mg/kg after subcutaneous administration in mice. These values are similar to those obtained for morphine. In a preliminary 12 day study in rabbits, no drug related toxic effects were discernable at 5 mg/kg. Doses of 25 mg/kg, 75 mg/kg and 150 mg/kg were associated with variable and transient pharmacotoxic effects typical of high dose opioid treatment in animals (decreased activity, decreased or absent defecation and convulsions).

Genotoxicity:

Mutagenicity

Oxycodone was not mutagenic in the following assays: Ames Salmonella and E. coli test with and without metabolic activation at doses of up to 5,000 mcg, chromosomal aberration test in human lymphocytes in the absence of metabolic activation at doses of up to 1,500 mcg/mL and with activation 48 hours after exposure at doses of up to 5,000 mcg/mL, and in the in vivo bone marrow micronucleus test in mice at plasma levels of up to 48 mcg/mL.

Mutagenic results occurred in the presence of metabolic activation in the human chromosomal aberration test (at greater than or equal to 1,250 mcg/mL) at 24 but not 48 hours of exposure and in the mouse lymphoma assay at doses of 50 mcg/mL or greater with metabolic activation and at 400 mcg/mL or greater without metabolic activation. The data from these tests indicate that the genotoxic risk to humans may be considered low.

Carcinogenicity

Studies of oxycodone in animals to evaluate its carcinogenic potential have not been conducted.

Reproductive and developmental toxicology

Teratogenicity

Oxycodone has no effect on fertility or early embryonic development in male and female rats at doses as high as 8 mg/kg/day. Also, oxycodone did not induce any malformations in rats at doses as high as 8 mg/kg/day or in rabbits at doses as high as 125 mg/kg/day. Dose-related increases in developmental variations (increased incidences of extra presacral vertebrae and extra pairs of ribs) were observed in rabbits when the data for individual foetuses were analyzed. However, when the same data were analyzed using litters as opposed to individual fetuses, there was no dose-related increase in developmental variations although the incidence of extra presacral vertebrae remained significantly higher in the 125 mg/kg/day group compared to the control group. Since this dose level was associated with severe pharmacotoxic effects in the pregnant animals, the fetal findings may have been a secondary consequence of severe maternal toxicity.

In a study of peri-prenatal and postnatal development study in rats, maternal body weight and food intake parameters were reduced for doses ≥ 2 mg/kg/day compared to the control group. Body weights were lower in the F_1 generation from maternal rats in the 6 mg/kg/day dosing group. There were no effects on physical, reflexological, or sensory developmental parameters or on behavioural and reproductive indices in the F_1 pups (the NOEL for F_1 pups was 2 mg/kg/day based on body weight effects seen at 6 mg/kg/day). There were no effects on the F_2 generation at any dose in the study.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women, and no studies on fertility or the post-natal effects of intrauterine exposure have been carried out.

17. Supporting Product Monographs

1. OxyCONTIN (Tablets, 5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg, 60 mg, 80 mg, 120 mg and 160 mg), control 148343, product monograph, Purdue Pharma. (2011-11-08)

Patient Medication Information

READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

[N]APO-OXYCODONE CR

Oxycodone Hydrochloride Controlled Release Tablets

This Patient Medication Information is written for the person who will be taking **APO-OXYCODONE CR**. This may be you or a person you are caring for. Read this information carefully. Keep it as you may need to read it again.

This Patient Medication Information is a summary. It will not tell you everything about this medication. If you have more questions about this medication or want more information about **APO-OXYCODONE CR**, talk to a healthcare professional.

Serious warnings and precautions box

- Even if you take APO-OXYCODONE CR as prescribed you are at risk for opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse that can lead to overdose and death. To understand your risk of opioid addiction, abuse, and misuse you should speak to your healthcare professional.

- When you take APO-OXYCODONE CR it must be swallowed whole. Do not cut, break, crush, chew, or dissolve the tablets. This can be dangerous and can lead to death or seriously harm you.

- Life-threatening breathing problems can happen while taking APO-OXYCODONE CR, especially if not taken as directed. Babies are at risk of life-threatening breathing problems if their mothers take opioids while pregnant or nursing.

- Never give anyone your APO-OXYCODONE CR. They could die from taking it. If a person has not been prescribed APO-OXYCODONE CR, taking even one dose can cause a fatal overdose. This is especially true for children.

- If you took APO-OXYCODONE CR while you were pregnant, whether for short or long periods of time or in small or large doses, your baby can suffer life-threatening withdrawal symptoms after birth. This can occur in the days after birth and for up to 4 weeks after delivery. If your baby has any of the following symptoms:
  - has changes in their breathing (such as weak, difficult or fast breathing);
  - is unusually difficult to comfort;
  - has tremors (shakiness);
  - has increased stools, sneezing, yawning, vomiting, or fever.

  Seek immediate medical help for your baby

- Taking APO-OXYCODONE CR with other opioid medicines, benzodiazepines, alcohol, or other

central nervous system depressants (including illicit drugs), can cause severe drowsiness, decreased awareness, breathing problems, coma, and death.

What APO-OXYCODONE CR is used for:

APO-OXYCODONE CR is used in adults to manage long-term pain, when:

- the pain is severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock pain medication; and
- the healthcare professional determines that other treatment options are not able to effectively manage your pain.

It is NOT used "as needed" to treat pain that you only have once in a while.

How APO-OXYCODONE CR works:

APO-OXYCODONE CR is a painkiller belonging to the class of medicines known as opioids. It relieves pain by acting on specific nerve cells of the spinal cord and brain.

The ingredients in APO-OXYCODONE CR are:

Medicinal ingredient(s): Oxycodone hydrochloride.

Non-medicinal ingredients: Anhydrous lactose, colloidal silicon dioxide, ethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, magnesium stearate, and polyethylene glycol.

The tablet coatings for each strength contain the following additional non-medicinal ingredients:

- 5 mg – brilliant blue FCF aluminum lake 12%, and titanium dioxide.
- 10 mg – titanium dioxide.
- 15 mg - ferric-ferrous oxide, red iron oxide, and titanium dioxide.
- 20 mg – red ferric oxide, and titanium dioxide.
- 30 mg - black iron oxide, red iron oxide, titanium dioxide, and yellow iron oxide.
- 40 mg – titanium dioxide, and yellow ferric oxide.
- 60 mg – red iron oxide.
- 80 mg – indigotine aluminum lake 12 to 14%, sodium phosphate dibasic, sodium phosphate monobasic monohydrate, titanium dioxide, and yellow ferric oxide.

APO-OXYCODONE CR comes in the following dosage form(s):

Tablets (extended-release): 5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg, 60 mg, and 80 mg of oxycodone hydrochloride.

Do not use APO-OXYCODONE CR if:

- your healthcare professional did not prescribe it for you.
- you are allergic to oxycodone hydrochloride, or any of the other ingredients of APO-OXYCODONE CR.
- you have mild or short-term pain that can be controlled by the occasional use of painkillers

including those available without a prescription.
- you have severe asthma, trouble breathing, or other lung problems.
- you have bowel blockage or narrowing of the stomach or intestines.
- you have a condition where the bowel does not work properly (ileus) or you have severe pain in your abdomen.
- you have increased pressure in your skull, a head injury.
- you have or have a history with epilepsy.
- you suffer from alcoholism or alcohol withdrawal.
- you are being treated for narcotic withdrawal.
- you are opioid-dependent (need to keep taking opioids to avoid withdrawal symptoms).
- you have severe kidney problems.
- you are taking, or have taken within the past 2 weeks, a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) (such as phenelzine sulphate, tranylcypromine sulphate, moclobemide, or selegiline).
- you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or you are in labour and delivery.
- you are breastfeeding.
- you are going to have a surgery or operation or have had a surgery in the last 24 hours.
- you have any heart problems.
- you have severe central nervous system (CNS) depression (nervous system slows down).

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take APO-OXYCODONE CR. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- have a history or family history of illicit or prescription drug or alcohol abuse.
- have kidney liver or lung problems.
- have been told you are at risk of having heart problems or seizures.
- have low blood pressure.
- have a sleep disorder which causes pauses in breathing or shallow breathing while sleeping (sleep apnea).
- have past or current depression.
- have problems with your thyroid, adrenal, or prostate gland.
- suffer from chronic or severe constipation.
- have or have had problems with your mood (such as depression or anxiety) or other mental health problems.
- have circulatory problems (e.g., body does not get enough oxygen and nutrients to function properly due to lack of blood flow).
- have other gastrointestinal problems such as constipation.
- have a history of pancreas or gall bladder problems.
- are planning to breastfeed.
- are planning on drinking alcohol. Drinking alcohol while taking APO-OXYCODONE CR may cause dangerous side effects, including death. Do not drink alcohol while taking APO-OXYCODONE CR.
- have a condition that causes weakness or frailty.
- have difficulty urinating.
- are 65 years of age and older.
- have been told that you are “opioid tolerant”. Ask your healthcare professional if you are unsure.
- have diabetes.
- have any of the following rare genetic conditions:

- galactose intolerance,
- Lapp lactase deficiency, or
- glucose-galactose malabsorption.

Lactose is a non-medicinal ingredient in APO-OXYCODONE CR.

Other warnings you should know about:

Taking APO-OXYCODONE CR can cause the following serious side effects:

- **Disorder of the adrenal gland:** You may develop a disorder of the adrenal gland called adrenal insufficiency. This means that your adrenal gland is not making enough certain hormones. You may experience symptoms such as:
  - nausea, vomiting;
  - feeling tired, weak, or dizzy;
  - decreased appetite.

  You may be more likely to have problems with your adrenal gland if you have been taking opioids for longer than one month. Your healthcare professional may do tests, give you another medication, and slowly take you off APO-OXYCODONE CR.

- **Serotonin toxicity** (also known as serotonin syndrome): APO-OXYCODONE CR can cause serotonin toxicity, a rare but potentially life-threatening condition. It can cause serious changes in how your brain, muscles, and digestive system work. You may develop serotonin toxicity if you take APO-OXYCODONE CR with certain anti-depressants or migraine medications.

  Serotonin toxicity symptoms include:
  - fever, sweating, shivering, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting;
  - muscle shakes, jerks, twitches or stiffness, overactive reflexes, loss of coordination;
  - fast heartbeat, changes in blood pressure;
  - confusion, agitation, restlessness, hallucinations, mood changes, unconsciousness, and coma.

- **Sleep Apnea:** Opioids can cause a problem called sleep apnea. This is a sleep disorder where you have pauses in your breathing, or shallow breathing while sleeping. Tell your healthcare professional if you have a history of sleep apnea or if anyone notices that you have irregular breathing while sleeping.

See the **Serious side effects and what to do about them** table below for more information on these and other serious side effects.

Drug addiction, dependence, and tolerance: Like any opioid, if you use APO-OXYCODONE CR for a long time, it may cause mental and physical dependence. Oxycodone hydrochloride also has the potential to cause addiction. There are important differences between physical dependence and addiction. If you use opioids for a long time, you may develop tolerance. This means that you may need higher doses of APO-OXYCODONE CR to feel the same level of pain relief. It is important that you talk to your healthcare

professional if you have questions or concerns about addiction, physical dependence, or tolerance. Your healthcare professional should prescribe and administer APO-OXYCODONE CR with the same degree of caution appropriate to the use of other oral opioid medications. It is not recommended to use these products for a long period of time.

Pregnancy, nursing, labour, and delivery: Do not use APO-OXYCODONE CR while pregnant, nursing, during labour or delivery. Opioids can be transferred to your baby through breast milk, or while still in the womb. APO-OXYCODONE CR can then cause life-threatening breathing problems in your unborn baby or nursing infant. If you become pregnant while taking APO-OXYCODONE CR, tell your healthcare professional right away.

If you are pregnant and are taking APO-OXYCODONE CR, it is important that you don't stop taking your medication all of a sudden. If you do, it can cause a miscarriage or a still-birth. Your healthcare professional will monitor and guide you on how to slowly stop taking APO-OXYCODONE CR. This may help avoid serious harm to your unborn baby.

Driving and using machines: Before you do tasks which may require special attention, you should wait until you know how you react to APO-OXYCODONE CR. APO-OXYCODONE CR can cause:

- drowsiness,
- dizziness, or
- light headedness.

This can usually occur after you take your first dose and when dose is increased.

Sexual function and reproduction: Long term use of opioids may lead to a decrease in sex hormone levels. It may also lead to low libido (desire to have sex), erectile dysfunction or being infertile.

Worsening pain: Taking opioids for pain can sometimes have the unintended effect of making your pain feel worse (opioid-induced hyperalgesia). This can occur even if your dose has not been changed or increased. This can also include feeling pain in new places in your body, or from something that would not normally hurt, for example, feeling pain from clothing touching your skin. Tell your healthcare professional if you notice a change like this in your pain while you are taking APO-OXYCODONE CR.

Testing and check-ups: Your healthcare professional will regularly monitor your health. This includes monitoring for signs of:

- misuse and abuse;
- sleep apnea;
- respiratory depression and sedation (e.g., slow, shallow, or weak breathing).

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements, or alternative medicines.

Serious drug interactions:

Serious drug interactions with APO-OXYCODONE CR include:

- benzodiazepines used to help you sleep or that help reduce anxiety.
- central nervous system (CNS) depressants used to slow down the nervous system. These can include:
  - other opioids used to relieve pain;
  - hypnotics used to help with sleeping;
  - antidepressants used for depression and mood disorders (e.g., tricyclic antidepressants [TCAs], serotonin norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors [SNRIs] and selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors [SSRIs], and St. John's Wort);
  - muscle relaxants used to treat muscle spasms and back pain (e.g., baclofen);
  - general anaesthetics used during surgery;
  - anxiolytics, antipsychotics and neuroleptics used to treat mental health or emotional disorders (e.g., phenothiazines, chlorpromazine);
  - antihistamines used to treat allergies;
  - antiemetics used to prevent nausea or vomiting (e.g., granisetron, dolasetron, and ondansetron);
  - sedatives which may enhance the drowsiness;
  - pregabalin, used to treat nerve pain;
  - gabapentin, used to prevent and control seizures in the treatment of epilepsy;
  - beta blockers used to lower blood pressure;
  - alcohol. This includes prescription and non-prescription medications that contain alcohol. Do not drink alcohol while you are taking APO-OXYCODONE CR. It can lead to drowsiness, unusually slow or weak breathing, serious side effects, or a fatal overdose.
- monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) used to treat depression. Do not take APO-OXYCODONE CR with MAOIs or if you have taken MAOIs in the last 14 days.

The following may also interact with APO-OXYCODONE CR:

- anticoagulants used to thin the blood and prevent blood clots (e.g., warfarin and coumadin).
- medicines that can affect the heart (e.g., amiodarone and quinidine).
- medicines used to treat Parkinson's Disease.
- antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections (e.g., erythromycin, clarithromycin, rifampin).
- antifungals used to treat fungal infections (e.g., ketoconazole and voriconazole).
- antiretrovirals used to treat viral infections (e.g., ritonavir).
- anticonvulsants used to treat seizures (e.g., carbamazepine, phenytoin).
- grapefruit juice.

How to take APO-OXYCODONE CR:

- Take APO-OXYCODONE CR exactly as prescribed by your healthcare professional.

- APO-OXYCODONE CR must be taken orally, by mouth. Do **NOT** administer the APO-OXYCODONE CR tablets via any other route (e.g., rectally) as this can cause serious harm, including death.

- APO-OXYCODONE CR can be taken with or without food.

- **Swallow the whole tablet. Do not cut, break, chew, dissolve, or crush APO-OXYCODONE CR tablets. This can be dangerous and can lead to death or seriously harm you.**

- The APO-OXYCODONE CR 60 mg and 80 mg strength tablets will only be prescribed if you are "opioid tolerant". Your healthcare professional will tell you when you are "opioid tolerant" to a certain dose of APO-OXYCODONE CR.

- Review your pain regularly with your healthcare professional to determine if you still need APO-OXYCODONE CR. Be sure to use APO-OXYCODONE CR only for the condition for which it was prescribed.

Usual dose:

Your dose is tailored/personalized just for you. Take it exactly as your healthcare professional has told you to. Do not increase or decrease your dose without consulting your healthcare professional. Taking higher doses can lead to more side effects and a greater chance of overdose.

You may see tablets in your stools (bowel movements) when using APO-OXYCODONE CR. Do not be concerned, your body has absorbed the medicine.

Stopping your Medication: If you have been taking APO-OXYCODONE CR for more than a few days you should not stop taking it all of a sudden. Your healthcare professional will monitor and guide you on how to slowly stop taking APO-OXYCODONE CR. You should do it slowly to avoid uncomfortable symptoms such as having:

- body aches,
- diarrhea,
- goosebumps,
- loss of appetite,
- nausea,
- feeling nervous or restless,
- runny nose,
- sneezing,
- tremors or shivering,
- stomach cramps,
- rapid heart rate (tachycardia),
- having trouble with sleeping,
- an unusual increase in sweating,
- heart palpitations,
- an unexplained fever,
- weakness,
- yawning.

By reducing or stopping your opioid treatment, your body will become less used to opioids. If you start treatment again, you will need to start at the lowest dose. You may overdose if you restart at the last dose you took before you slowly stopped taking APO-OXYCODONE CR.

Refilling Prescriptions for APO-OXYCODONE CR: A new written prescription is required from your healthcare professional each time you need more APO-OXYCODONE CR. Therefore, it is important that you contact your healthcare professional before your current supply runs out.

Only obtain prescriptions for this medicine from the healthcare professional in charge of your treatment. Do not seek prescriptions from other healthcare professionals unless you switch to another healthcare professional for your pain management.

Overdose:

Signs of overdose may include:

- unusually slow or weak breathing,
- dizziness,
- confusion,
- extreme drowsiness,
- shrinking of pupils,
- floppy muscles/low muscle tone,
- cold and clammy skin,
- slow heart rate,
- low blood pressure,
- sleep apnea (a sleep disorder which causes pauses in breathing or shallow breathing while sleeping),
- cardiac arrest (heart stops beating suddenly),
- pulmonary edema (build-up of fluid in the lungs),
- low blood sugar (dizziness, lack of energy, drowsiness, headache, trembling, sweating)

APO-OXYCODONE CR is an opioid. Naloxone can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. It is recommended to have naloxone readily available if you are taking APO-OXYCODONE CR. If an overdose occurs, another person will need to give it to you. **They should call 911 right away** and follow the instructions provided with the naloxone product.

Missed dose:

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss:

- **One dose:** Skip the missed dose and take your next dose as scheduled. Do not take two doses at once to make-up for the missed dose.

- **Several doses in a row:** Talk to your healthcare professional before restarting your medication.

Possible side effects from using APO-OXYCODONE CR:
These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking APO-OXYCODONE CR. If you experience any side effects not listed here, tell your healthcare professional.

Side effects with APO-OXYCODONE CR may include:

- constipation. Talk with your healthcare professional about ways to prevent constipation when you start using APO-OXYCODONE CR;
- dizziness;
- drowsiness;
- dry mouth;
- headache;
- itching;
- weakness, uncoordinated muscle movement;
- nausea, vomiting, or poor appetite;
- sweating;
- insomnia;
- abdominal pain;
- fever;
- diarrhea;
- indigestion;
- tremor;
- abnormal dreams or thoughts;
- anxiety;
- confusion;
- depression;
- nervousness;
- rash;
- difficulty breathing;
- low sex drive, impotence (erectile dysfunction), infertility.

Serious side effects and what to do about them

Frequency/Side Effect/Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking this drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Common			
Gastrointestinal problems: constipation, diarrhea, abdominal cramping, nausea, vomiting, bloating.		✓	
Uncommon			
Hallucinations: seeing or hearing things that are not there.			✓
Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar levels): dizziness, lack of energy, drowsiness, headache, trembling, sweating			✓
Seizures (fit): uncontrollable shaking with or without loss of consciousness.			✓

Frequency/Side Effect/Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking this drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Rare			
Allergic reaction: rash, hives, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, difficulty swallowing or breathing.			✓
Bowel blockage (impaction): abdominal pain, severe constipation, or nausea.			✓
Fast, slow or irregular heartbeat: heart palpitations.		✓	
Hypotension (low blood pressure): dizziness, fainting, or light-headedness.	✓		
Overdose: hallucinations, confusion, inability to walk normally, slow, or weak breathing, extreme sleepiness, sedation, or dizziness, floppy muscles/low muscle tone, or cold and clammy skin.			✓
Respiratory depression: slow, shallow or weak breathing.			✓
Serotonin toxicity (also known as serotonin syndrome): a reaction which may cause feeling of agitation or restlessness, flushing, muscle twitching, involuntary eye movements, heavy sweating, high body temperature (>38°C), or rigid muscles.			✓
Withdrawal: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, anxiety, shivering, cold and clammy skin, body aches, loss of appetite, or sweating.		✓	
Unknown			
Disorder of the adrenal gland: nausea, vomiting, anorexia, fatigue, weakness, dizziness, or low blood pressure.			✓

Frequency/Side Effect/Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking this drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Opioid-Induced Esophageal Dysfunction (OIED) (a gastrointestinal disorder): trouble swallowing, acid reflux, chest pain		✓	
Sleep apnea (a sleep disorder where you stop breathing for short periods of time during your normal nightly sleep): loud snoring, abrupt awakening with gasping or choking		✓	

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

Reporting side effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (canada.ca/drug-device-reporting) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your healthcare professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

Storage:

- Store between 15°C to 30°C. Keep in a cool, dry place. Protect from moisture.
- Keep unused or expired APO-OXYCODONE CR in a secure place to prevent theft, misuse, or accidental exposure. It should be kept under lock, out of sight and reach of children and pets.
- Never take medicine in front of small children as they will want to copy you. Accidental ingestion by a child is dangerous and may result in death. If a child accidentally takes APO-OXYCODONE CR, get emergency help right away.
- APO-OXYCODONE CR should never be thrown into household trash, where children and pets may find it. It should be returned to a pharmacy for proper disposal.

If you want more information about APO-OXYCODONE CR:

- Talk to your healthcare professional.
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes the Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada Drug Product Database

website (https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html); the manufacturer's website (http://www.apotex.ca/products); or by calling 1-800-667-4708.

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