## OxyContin<sup>TM</sup>

Street terms for OxyContin<sup>TM</sup>: Hillbilly heroin, Oxy, Oxycotton<sup>1</sup>

What does OxyContin<sup>TM</sup> look like?

• OxyContin<sup>™</sup> is a legal, time-release pain medication that comes in tablet form.

What are the methods of usage?

- Chewing the tablets
- Snorting crushed tablets
- Dissolving tablets in water and injecting
- These methods cause a faster, highly dangerous release of medication.

## Who uses OxyContin<sup>TM</sup>?

- Abuse of OxyContin<sup>TM</sup> in rural Maine, Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia brought national attention to this problem.
- The areas most currently affected by OxyContin<sup>™</sup> abuse are eastern Kentucky; New Orleans, Louisiana; southern Maine; Philadelphia and southwestern Pennsylvania; southwestern Virginia; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Phoenix, Arizona.<sup>2</sup>
- An increase in illegal use has been especially apparent on the East Coast.<sup>3</sup>
- 9% or 19.9 million Americans have used pain relievers illegally in their lifetime.<sup>4</sup>

How does OxyContin™ get to the United States?

- Because it is a legal drug, OxyContin™ is supplied across the country for legitimate medical purposes.
- Word of mouth has allowed users to devise illicit usage techniques.
- Pharmacy robberies, health care fraud, and international trafficking constitute illicit distribution ability.

How much does OxyContin<sup>TM</sup> cost?

- When legally sold, a 10-mg tablet of OxyContin<sup>™</sup> will cost \$1.25 and an 80-mg tablet will cost \$6.
- When illegally sold, a 10-mg tablet of OxyContin<sup>™</sup> can cost between \$5 and \$10. An 80-mg tablet can cost between \$65 and \$80. <sup>5</sup>

What are some consequences of illicit OxyContin<sup>TM</sup> use?

- Long-term usage can lead to physical dependence.<sup>6</sup>
- A large dosage can cause severe respiratory depression that can lead to death.

• Withdrawal symptoms include restlessness, muscle and bone pain, insomnia, diarrhea, vomiting, cold flashes with goose bumps, and involuntary leg movements.<sup>8</sup>

1 Office of National Drug Control Policy, Street Terms: Drugs and the Drug Trade.

<sup>2</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, OxyContin<sup>TM</sup>: Pharmaceutical Diversion, March 2002.

<sup>3</sup> DEA Congressional Testimony, December 11, 2001.

<sup>4</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, OxyContin™ Fact Sheet.

<sup>5</sup> United States Department of Justice, OxyContin<sup>TM</sup> Diversion and Abuse, January 2001.

<sup>6</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse, Prescription Drugs: Abuse and Addiction, February 2002. 7 Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.