

# There is No Magic Pill for Fighting Opioid Abuse



**Q:** What is an Abuse Deterrent Formulation (ADF)?

**A:** An ADF is a pill manufactured in a way that prevents it from being manipulated and abused, like being crushed into a powder and snorted or injected.

Stemming opioid abuse by making pills uncrushable remains untested and speculative at best.



“It should be noted that these technologies have not yet proven successful at deterring the most common form of abuse—swallowing a number of intact capsules or tablets to achieve a feeling of euphoria.”

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/drugs/guidancecomplianceregulatoryinformation/guidances/ucm334743.pdf>



1/3 of physicians surveyed mistakenly think oral ingestion is not the most common form of abuse.

Source: <http://www.jhsph.edu/news/news-releases/2015/survey-many-doctors-misunderstand-key-facets-of-opioid-abuse.html>

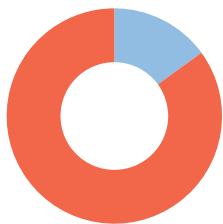
A.7427-A/S.5170-A will not fix the problem of opioid abuse, and worse, it provides a false sense of security to prescribers.



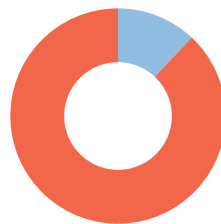
In a national survey, nearly half of physicians surveyed thought that abuse-deterrent pills were actually less addictive than their standard counterparts, when in fact they're just as addictive. This lack of understanding may be contributing to the ongoing epidemic of prescription opioid abuse and addiction in the U.S.

Source: <http://www.jhsph.edu/news/news-releases/2015/survey-many-doctors-misunderstand-key-facets-of-opioid-abuse.html>

Over prescribing opioids remains at the root of the problem.



A Johns Hopkins survey found 85% of physicians believe opioids are overprescribed.



However, 88% of the same group is confident that they personally are prescribing appropriately.

Source: <http://www.jhsph.edu/news/news-releases/2014/primary-care-doctors-report-prescribing-fewer-opioids-for-pain.html>

Fixing the pill...at what cost?

A 30-pill supply can cost between 5-10X more than what a non-ADF version costs. There are currently no generic ADF options. Do we really need another prescription mandate when the costs of healthcare are rising?



Source: Good Rx, Accessed July 30, 2015

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