

Mayo Clinic Minute

National Health Checkup on Opioids

Video	Audio
Halena Gazelka, M.D. Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine	“The deaths from opioids are on the rise on a daily, monthly, yearly basis.”
Vivien Williams	Dr. Halena Gazelka says the Mayo Clinic National Checkup on Opioids is a survey of American’s views on opioid use.
Halena Gazelka, M.D.	“I think the most important thing that the public should know is that opioids are good medicines ...”
Vivien Williams	... when used properly. But the survey shows many people aren’t sure how opioids should be used. Of those surveyed, the vast majority of Americans mistakenly view opioids as intended for chronic pain. Most see opioid addiction as an issue but don’t see themselves as being at risk. Most don’t know how to dispose of unused opioids, and 94 percent would like to use alternatives after surgery but don’t talk about it with their doctors.
Halena Gazelka, M.D.	“We are not at the Mayo Clinic advising that people never use opioids. We want people to use the right medicine for the right patient at the right time – and for the right period of time.”
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Vivien Williams.