

Prescription drug deaths: Two stories

By Maxwell Newfield , CNN

updated 12:44 PM EST, Mon November 19, 2012

CNN.com

Emily Jackson, 18, went to her uncle's funeral.

(CNN) -- Pete Jackson attended his brother-in-law's funeral along with his daughter, Emily, six years ago. He never dreamed it would be the last day of his daughter's life.

"It's so tragic, just not something you would never, ever expect," said Pete Jackson.

Instead of going home to the Chicago suburb of Arlington Heights after the funeral, Emily Jackson, 18, spent the night with her cousins.

That night, she made a deadly decision. She took an Oxycontin -- a single prescription pill -- that her cousin offered to her while drinking. She went to sleep that night and never woke up. She died of respiratory depression -- she simply stopped breathing.

The Oxycontin that Emily took belonged to her uncle, who had died of cancer.