

THE FACE OF OPIOID ADDICTION

ANYONE CAN BECOME ADDICTED TO OPIOIDS.

Your loved one, neighbor or even coworker could be struggling.

KNOW THE SIGNS OF ADDICTION AND WITHDRAWAL.

What are OPIOIDS?

AND WHY ARE THEY SO ADDICTING?

OPIOIDS ARE PAINKILLERS such as morphine, methadone, Buprenorphine, hydrocodone (Vicodin), oxycodone (Oxycontin), codeine, Hydromorphone (Dilaudid), and Fentanyl. Heroin and carfentanil are also opioids and are illegal.

Opioid pain relievers are generally safe when taken for a short time and as prescribed by a doctor. **BUT BECAUSE THEY PRODUCE EUPHORIA IN ADDITION TO PAIN RELIEF, THEY CAN EASILY BE MISUSED AND LEAD TO ADDICTION.**

INAPPROPRIATE USE OF UNUSED MEDICATION IS THE #1 CAUSE OF OVERDOSE.

What are the signs of OPIOID ABUSE?



DROWSINESS/LACK OF ENERGY

Looking tired, appearing drowsy with drooping eyes, or looking about to fall asleep.



INABILITY TO CONCENTRATE AND LACK OF MOTIVATION

Opioids can diminish an individual's attention and concentration and interfere with learning, especially at work or school. Obvious signs would be things like missing days of work, leaving school or work during the day or a significant drop in performance.



SOCIAL BEHAVIORAL CHANGES

Friendships and healthy social activities may change to isolation, spending time with others who partake in destructive behavior and increased secrecy.



CHANGES IN APPEARANCE

Opioids can cause pinpoint pupils (pupils that stay constricted, even in dim room light), sudden itching, drooping eyes, flushing of the face and neck, head nodding, intense calm, and slurred speech.

What are the signs of WITHDRAWAL?

DURING WITHDRAWAL, SYMPTOMS MAY BE:

Runny nose, anxiety, goosebumps/gooseflesh skin, and sweating.

THESE CAN LEAD TO MORE ADVANCED SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF WITHDRAWAL THAT CAN INCLUDE:

Increased heart rate, increased blood pressure, insomnia, abdominal cramping, bone pain, muscle spasms, nausea, and vomiting.

SYMPTOMS FROM OPIOID WITHDRAWAL CAN OCCUR IN AS LITTLE AS 3 HOURS FOR FENTANYL AND 8 HOURS FOR HEROIN.

3 TO 8 HOURS

What can you do TO HELP?

- DISPOSE OF MEDICATION PROPERLY
- BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN FEELINGS ABOUT ADDICTION
- TAKE TIME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ADDICTION AND OVERDOSE
- TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND YOUR OWN WELL-BEING
- KNOW THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE WITHIN PREMIER HEALTH AND IN THE COMMUNITY

For more information on opioids, visit <http://www.mcadamhs.org/> and for more information on area resources, visit <http://www.opioidassist.com>

SOURCE: National Alliance of Advocates for Buprenorphine Treatment (NAABT); National Institute on Drug Abuse; CBS News