

Substance, Drug and Prescription Abuse

Drug (illegal or prescription) and substance abuse not only affects the user, but also family and friends. An assessment of the physical and behavioral signs/symptoms listed below can help you determine if a substance has taken control of your life or a loved one's life.

Physical Signs

Loss of appetite, increase in appetite, change in eating habits, unexplained weight loss or gain.

Tremors, slurred speech, slowed or staggering walk, poor physical coordination.

Inability to sleep, awake at unusual times, unusual laziness.

Bloodshot, watery eyes, pupils larger or smaller than usual, blank stare.

Runny nose or hacking cough.

Needle marks on lower arm, leg or bottom of feet.

Nausea, vomiting or excessive sweating.

Unusual smells on breath, body or clothing.

Behavioral Signs

Change in overall attitude/personality such as difficulty in paying attention, forgetfulness, moodiness, irritability or nervousness, silliness or giddiness with no other identifiable cause.

Change in friends, new hangouts, sudden avoidance of old crowd, avoids talking about new friends, friends are known drug users.

Change in activities or hobbies.

Drop in grades at school or performance at work, skips or is late for school.

Excessive need for privacy, unreachable.

Extreme hyperactivity, excessively talkative.

Secretive or suspicious behavior, paranoia.

Car accidents.

Chronic dishonesty.

Unexplained need for money, stealing money or items.

Deterioration of physical appearance and personal grooming habits.

Possession of drug paraphernalia.

For more information about the signs or symptoms listed above, or to schedule an appointment, call 630.933.4000. TTY for the hearing impaired 630.933.4833.

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