

IN THE KNOW: Prescription Drugs

An American Epidemic

Most people who use illicit drugs abused prescription drugs first.

- Opioid prescriptions are up 400% in the last decade.
- 80% of abused prescription drugs come from a relative or friend.



Opioids *to relieve pain*

Rx
PATIENT NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Prescription:

- Codeine
- Morphine
- Methadone
- Fentanyl
- Oxycodone
- Hydrocodone

May cause-

- * Drowsiness
- * Constipation
- * Respiratory failure
- * Addiction

Depressants *to reduce anxiety*

Rx
PATIENT NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Prescription:

- Valium
- Xanax
- Seconal
- Phenobarbital
- Ambien
- Lunesta

May cause-

- * Slowed Brain Function
- * Slowed Heart Rate
- * Respiratory failure
- * Addiction

Stimulants *to raise alertness*

Rx
PATIENT NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Prescription:

- Ritalin
- Vivance
- Dexedrine
- Adderall
- Concerta

May cause-

- * Anxiety and Paranoia
- * High Temperature
- * Irregular Heart Beat
- * Seizures

NO PRESCRIPTION

Using medications not prescribed to you, giving them to someone else or misusing your prescription is dangerous and illegal.

ABUSE AND ADDICTION

Medications are effective when properly used, but they can be dangerous and addictive, especially when abused.

SIGNS OF ABUSE

Drug seeking behaviors are the primary indicators of prescription drug abuse.

- Frequent refill requests
- "Borrowing" prescriptions from others
- Taking larger dosages than prescribed
- Seeing many doctors for same condition
- Stealing or foraging for drugs
- Lying to questions about prescriptions

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Alcohol should never be mixed with prescription drugs. Most overdoses are because drugs and alcohol are mixed.

DISPOSAL TIPS

Disposing of prescriptions in a safe manner helps prevent abuse.

- Follow disposal directions on bottle.
- Use community disposal drop-boxes.
- Do not flush medications down the toilet.

GETTING HELP

There are support groups and other ways to get help with prescription drug abuse. Talk to a counselor or your doctor and get on the path to recovery.



Refuse to Abuse!