

PAIN MEDICATION ADDICTION: SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

As a part of your Pain Management Plan, your physician or treatment team may have prescribed you a drug from the Opioid category. Opioids can be extremely effective in managing both acute and chronic pain, however, these medicines also have a strong abuse potential.

Prescription pain medication addiction symptoms can creep up on users of these particular medications. For many people who suffer chronic pain, the use of drugs derived from Opioids such as Oxycontin, Vicodin, Percocet, etc., which are legal opioid pain killing drugs, is often a life changing medical intervention. However, these drugs are well recognized to cause addiction; therefore, it's important to recognize the symptoms before the problem becomes truly serious.

Safe Versus Unsafe Use of Prescription Pain Relievers

When used in controlled circumstances for the management of moderate to severe pain, prescription pain relief medications can have a profound effect on how well people are able to conduct their lives. Unfortunately, as with many drugs that derive from opioids, there are some people who become addicted when initially using the medication for legitimate reasons. However, some people obtain the drugs via illicit methods in order to use them as recreational drugs.

Legitimate and careful use of these drugs should be problem-free. However, addiction is also a risk with this particular classification of medications. Prescription pain relief medication addiction symptoms may be subtle at first, and some users begin to have problems with addiction without their physician's knowledge.

Recognizing the Signs of Addiction:

It is important to be aware of the potential signs of addiction. It is crucial to understand that a person of any age and any socioeconomic background may become addicted. For this reason, it's especially beneficial for anyone living with someone who is taking prescription pain relievers to be aware of possible signs of addiction.

One of the initial signs that an addiction is forming is when a user begins to decrease a dose or attempts to cease taking the drug following instructions from the physician. At this point, as well as feeling physical pain due to a lack of the drug, the addict will feel a sense of panic and urgency to commence treatment again. For some, this feeling alone can be enough to force an individual into obtaining the drug via illicit (non-prescribed) methods.

Some of the wider recognized symptoms of prescription pain medication addiction include:

- Sleep disturbance/insomnia
- Joint and muscle pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Nervous anxiety/irritability; particularly if the drug is withheld

With most of these prescription pain medication addiction symptoms, the longer a person is dependent on the drug, the more the symptoms are likely to appear. What starts out as a legitimate use of a drug for pain relief becomes an integral addiction of both a physical and psychological nature.

[Help For Prescription Pain Medication Addiction:](#)

There are many resources available to individuals who have become addicted to prescription pain medication. If you are concerned that you may have a problem with using these substances or know someone who is, don't be afraid to approach these people or to reach out for help. There are many organizations who understand the nature of this addiction. Aurora Behavioral Health System is one of those agencies. We are here to help and are standing by to take your call.

[Aurora Behavioral Health System: Help, From Start to Finish:](#)

Aurora offers opiate dependent services to meet your needs at all different levels of care. Not only do we provide in-patient detoxification services, but we also offer day treatment programs and outpatient therapy groups. Aurora also specializes in working with individuals who are dealing with other issues such as depression and anxiety. Our Patient Services department will conduct an interview with you to help determine your needs and support you in making the choice for the program, which will help you begin your road to recovery.

Where healing starts and the road to recovery begins...

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