

EIGHT

Ways To Identify Prescription Drug Abuse

Unlike prescription drug **misuse**, which can involve not following medication instructions, prescription drug **abuse** is the use of a medication to get “high.” If you think a loved one may be abusing drugs, take a look at this list from the Mayo Clinic that details behaviors of someone who is addicted to medications:

1) Stealing, forging, or selling prescriptions

5) Poor decision making

2) Taking higher doses than prescribed

6) Appearing to be high, unusually energetic or revved up, or sedated

3) Excessive mood swings or hostility

7) Continually “losing” prescriptions, so more prescriptions must be written

4) Increase or decrease in sleep

8) Seeking prescriptions from more than one doctor, also called “doctor shopping.”

More specifically, people with addictions show different behaviors based on the type of medication to which they are addicted. For example, it is common for someone who is addicted to opioid painkillers to feel nauseated, have poor coordination, or act confused or drowsy. While someone who may be addicted to stimulants might have a reduced appetite, appear agitated or excitable, and have trouble sleeping.



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