

Signs and Symptoms of Addiction

- Comes to work during scheduled time off and “hangs around”
- departmental drug supply
- Isolates and withdraws from peers
- Takes frequent bathroom breaks or disappears while on duty
- Frequently volunteers to relieve for breaks
- Expresses desire to take extra call
- Increasing or unexplained tardiness or absenteeism
- Gradual decline in work performance
 - Locked doors
 - No responses to pages/emergencies
- Displays patterns of inappropriate drug choices and dosages
 - Consistently signs out more narcotics than peers
 - Keeps drug waste rather than discarding it
 - Has “broken” ampules
 - Withholds medication from patients and/ or substitutes other medications
 - Switches syringes while wasting
 - Wastes with “friends” or those not familiar with type of drug
- Increasing mood lability with frequent, unexplained anger and overreaction to criticism
 - Disappearing from department in agitated mood; returning calm
 - Increasing difficulty with authority
- Becomes forgetful, unpredictable, confused, and lacks concentration
- Suffers from frequent illnesses or physical complaints
- Exhibits dishonesty, often over trivial or unimportant matters
- Makes elaborate excuses for actions
- Suffers from tremors or “Monday morning shakes”
- Reveals evidence of alcohol or drug use, such as odor of alcohol on breath, heavy perfume or mouthwash, wearing long sleeves
- Appears intoxicated at social functions
- Pupils pinpoint
- Withdrawal Sx: sweating, vomiting, shaking
- Injection sites/bruises
- Liquid or blood on clothing
- Is discovered with paraphernalia, comatose or dead