



SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Text Button C

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS INDICATIVE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Personal/Family behavior

- Isolation and withdrawal from family, friends, church, leisure activities
- Erratic or violent behavior in the home
- Sexual dysfunction and/or promiscuity (e.g. multiple sexual partners)
- Legal problems, especially driving convictions
- Separation or divorce from partner
- Compulsions (e.g. excessive spending, gambling)

Social behavior

- Inappropriate behavior at social functions
- Citation for driving while intoxicated (DWI)
- Citation for "careless and reckless driving" plea-bargained down from DWI
- Deterioration in personal hygiene, clothing, and dressing habits
- Accidents, falls, motor vehicle collisions

Professional behavior (often the last to deteriorate)

- Recurrent tardiness
- Rounds very early or very late (to avoid others and escape scrutiny)
- Behaves inappropriately during rounds
- Shows diminished performance (poor quality of presentations, charting, dictations)
- Absent, often without a viable excuse
- Over-prescribes medicines, especially controlled substances
- Wears long-sleeved scrubs and/or has track marks or injection sites
- Requests drug samples from colleagues or nurses
- Alters behavior (becomes less compulsive when typically conscientious; has rapid changes in quality of dress, hygiene, timeliness, attention to detail)
- Becomes the subject of "hospital gossip"
- Has alcohol on breath
- Slurs speech and/or has pinpoint pupils
- Repeatedly fails to answer pages or home phone calls
- Diverts medicines
 - Medications on unit disappear
 - Patients complain that the resident "keeps my medicines" or requests that "I give him/her any unused medicine"