






SIGNS OF OPIOID MISUSE

PHYSICAL SIGNS

-  **EUPHORIC OR
EXTREMELY HAPPY**
-  **SEDATION OR TIREDNESS**
-  **CONFUSION**
-  **CONSTRICTED PUPILS**
-  **SLOW REACTIONS**

BEHAVIORAL AND LIFESTYLE SIGNS

-  **WITHDRAW FROM
FAMILY & FRIENDS**
-  **LOSS OF INTEREST**
-  **IRRITABLE AND ANGRY**
-  **ANXIOUS OR NERVOUS**
-  **LYING OR KEEPING SECRETS**

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NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

NMHealth.org

**SIGNS
OF OPIOID
MISUSE**

THERE IS
**ANOTHER
WAY**
TACKLING OUR OPIOID CRISIS

SIGNS OF OPIOID MISUSE

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SIGNS OF OPIOID USE

DISORDER – A LIFE COULD DEPEND ON IT!

If a friend or family member...

- Starts acting intensely happy or strangely confident, especially after taking a dose of a drug, or
- Becomes really drowsy, maybe to the point of falling asleep unexpectedly, after a period of extreme happiness, or
- Becomes unexplainably confused, or
- Has pupils that are much smaller than normal, or
- Starts nodding off at random times or unexplainably loses consciousness, or
- Starts breathing too slowly

They may be showing the danger signs of opioid use disorder!

Also, when people first starting using opioids, they may feel itchy when they take them, or they may feel nauseous to the point of vomiting.

Longer use of opioids can also result in constipation, slower reaction times, and slower movements.

OPIOID USE CAUSES MORE THAN PHYSICAL PROBLEMS. WATCH OUT FOR BAD CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR OR LIFESTYLE!

When trying to figure out if another person is misusing opioids, it can be difficult to spot physical symptoms. The person who is misusing opioids may be able to hide some of behaviors, but there are also general red flags that may be easier to recognize. Often times, when someone has opioid use disorder, they may:

- Withdraw from activities and commitments, like school or work.
- Neglect their physical appearance.
- Lose interest in things they used to like doing.
- Start following different habits or routines and hanging out with different people.
- Have attitude changes like irritability or angry outbursts.
- Have other behavioral signs, such as anxiety, nervousness, secrecy, or dishonesty.

Do you have a friend or family member that has started to put their focus on things that will help them to get more of the drug they're misusing? Substance Use Disorder can cause people to become even more disconnected from their previous life.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT misuse of a substance causes many people to start taking extreme measures to find their drugs. With opioids, the body is usually quick to develop a tolerance. This means the person misusing opioids will need continuously higher doses to get high. That's what causes them to steal pills from relatives or to take money to support their habit.

Watch for doctor shopping! The person misusing opioids will start visiting many different doctors and creating fake symptoms in the hope of getting a prescription for opioids.

And then there's trouble with the law... when someone is on opioids, they may resort to extreme behavior that gets them in trouble with the police. Theft, unsafe use of cars, and even violence can all be symptoms of opioid use disorder.

WITHDRAWAL OF OPIOIDS CAN BE ROUGH.

People who have a substance use disorder can learn ways to hide it, making it hard for their friends and family to know for sure whether or not they are actually misusing.

LOOK OUT FOR SYMPTOMS OF WITHDRAWAL!

Symptoms of withdrawal from opioids can be similar to the flu and can include headache, nausea, vomiting, sweating, tiredness and extreme anxiety.

If you think a friend or family member is suffering from opioid use disorder, get help!

You can find resources at AnotherWayNM.com.