



ADDICTION

IMPORTANT FACTS:

An **estimated 65%** of emergency room visits by those as 65+ are alcohol or drug related.

Those who have experienced **traumatic losses** are more likely to experience **drinking problems** in the five years that follow.

Over the counter **sleep-aids** are the most common non-prescription drug **abused by the elderly**.

Mouthwash and cough medications are often purchased strictly for their alcohol content.

Self medicating for physical pain, or to ease feelings of sadness, can be deadly.

Elderly substance abusers tend to **respond well to treatment** and stay in treatment programs.

What are signs of addiction?

- Not willing to discuss** addiction concerns.
- Unreasonable **resentments or self-pity**.
- Appearing **sedated** or having slurred speech.
- Uncharacteristic **flashes of aggression**.
- Shakiness**, unstable gait, frequent falls.
- Impaired thinking**, trouble concentrating.
- Personal relationships** no longer have value.
- Conspicuous, **excessive use** of medications.
- Use of **multiple doctors** and pharmacies.
- Change in **overall health** due to toxic effects.

http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/mhaging/chapter2_6.htm



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Don't let addiction take control
of you or your loved one.

*Please call for more information
or log on to the OMHAC website.*

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www.odmhsas.org
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Please speak openly with your doctor if you are experiencing any of the signs listed.