



ADDICTIONS

IMPORTANT FACTS:

Addiction is a chronic health condition, not a failure of character or morals

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

Contributing factors include access to multiple medications, loneliness, surgery, chronic pain, depression and/or anxiety

Older bodies have a decreased ability to metabolize drugs or alcohol

Self-medicating for pain, or to ease feelings of sadness, or traumatic events can be deadly

Older adults who abuse substances tend to respond well to treatment and stay in treatment programs

Older adults are prescribed more opioids than any other age group; over 30% of all medications prescribed are for older adults

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
- Solitary or secretive drinking or drug use



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

**HELP IS AVAILABLE
TREATMENT WORKS**

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