

Aberrant Drug Related Behaviour (Modified by Passik, Kirsh et al 2002).

Indicator	Examples
*Altering the route of delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injecting, biting or crushing oral formulations
*Accessing opioids from other sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking the drug from friends or relatives • Purchasing the drug from the “street” • Double-doctoring
Unsanctioned use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple unauthorized dose escalations • Binge rather than scheduled use • Recurrent prescription losses
Drug seeking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggressive complaining about the need for higher doses • Harassing staff for faxed scripts or fit-in appointments • Nothing else “works”
Repeated withdrawal symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marked dysphoria, myalgias, GI symptoms, craving
Accompanying conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently addicted to alcohol, cocaine, cannabis or other drugs • Underlying mood or anxiety disorders not responsive to treatment
Social features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deteriorating or poor social function • Concern expressed by family members
Views on the opioid medication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes acknowledges being addicted • Strong resistance to tapering or switching opioids • May admit to mood-leveling effect • May acknowledge distressing withdrawal symptoms

Aberrant Opioid Use

Red Flags

- Prescriptions from multiple physicians
- Frequent visits to emergency room requesting opioids
- Requests from patients from outside of local area
- Stolen or modification of prescriptions
- Extensive polypharmacy with CNS depressants and/or non-prescribed habituating substances
- Forgery, selling, stealing, or using other person's medications; tampering with prescriptions.
- Injecting oral or chewing LA formulations

Reassess Regimen and/or Treatment Agreement

- Rapid escalation of dose in CNMP
- Frequent excuses for running out of medication
- Frequent loss of prescriptions and/or medications
- Frequent changes of the opioid prescribed
- Aversion to concurrent recommended treatments
- Request for Brand-name versus generic product
- Lack of request for adjunct analgesic refills
- Unsanctioned noncompliance with the regimen
- Missed follow-up visits

Definitions

Addiction:

Loss of control over substance use WITH compulsive continued use despite harm

Pseudoaddiction:

Drug seeking behavior mimicking addiction resulting from under-treatment of pain.

Dependence, physical:

A state of adaptation resulting in drug class-specific withdrawal symptoms upon abrupt dose reduction, decreasing drug levels or antagonist administration (not to be confused with addiction).

Tolerance:

Decreasing effect of a drug over time.