

A collection of various prescription drug bottles and pills scattered on a white surface against a blue background. The bottles are of different sizes and colors, including white, orange, and brown. The pills are scattered in the foreground, showing a variety of colors and shapes, including round, oval, and capsule forms in white, yellow, red, black, and green.

Prescription Drug Abuse

By: Kathy Short

Pill-Popping Capital of the World!



The Florida Connection

- Almost as many people visit Florida to obtain prescription drugs as they do to vacation.
- Florida provides Tennessee and Kentucky with the majority of their illegal prescription drugs



Brevard County, FL



- 136% increase of prescription drug investigations from 2007 to 2008
- Seized prescription count up to 5,406 from 2,895
- 199 prescription abuse related deaths with 35 still pending toxicology

Who's at Risk?

- All ethnicities
- All Ages
- All Social Classes
- **Anybody** could become dependent!



The Sources

- Exaggerating symptoms
- Visiting many medical professionals
- The internet
- Pain Management Clinics
- The Medicine Cabinet



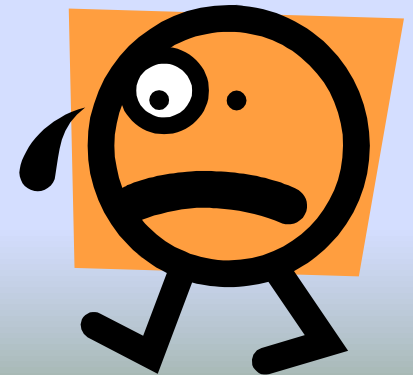
The Warning Signs

- Multiple prescriptions from different sources
- Prescriptions under someone else's name
- Various pills in the same bottle
- A third party holding prescriptions
- Altered pill bottles
- Doctors located in different areas



Do I Have a Problem?

- Using prescription drugs to kick up energy or calm nerves
- Guilt and remorse over using prescriptions
- Feeling a need to reduce your use of prescription drugs
- Loved ones are concerned about your use of prescription drugs



Frequently Abused Drugs

- Opioids
 - Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet)
 - Oxycodone (OxyContin, Percocet, Percodan, or Tylox)
 - Methadone

Frequently Abused Drugs

- Benzodiazepines
 - Clonazepam (Klonopin)
 - Alprazolam (Xanax, Ativan, or lorazepam)
 - Diazepam (Valium)

Frequently Abused Drugs

- Muscle Relaxers
 - Carisoprodol (Soma)
 - Cyclobenzaprine (Flexeril)

Dangers in Quitting

- Stopping the use of some prescription drugs “cold turkey” can have **very bad results!**
 - » Sudden Cardiac Arrest
 - » Sudden Respiratory Arrest
 - » Seizures
 - » Death
- These drugs should be quit under a doctor’s supervision



How Medical Professionals Can Help

- Pharmacists need to:
 - Explain how to take prescriptions properly
 - Provide clear information about side effects
 - Provide accurate advice about drug interactions



How Medical Professionals Can Help

- Doctors need to:
 - Prescribe medications properly
 - Identify patients who already have drug problems
 - Help a patient with a problem to identify it and assist them in seeking treatment



The Opioid and Narcotic Agreement

OMN **Healthcare**

Long-term Controlled Substances Therapy for Chronic Pain

The purpose of this agreement is to protect your access to controlled substances and to protect our ability to prescribe for you.

The long-term use of such substances as opioids (narcotics), benzodiazepine tranquilizers, and barbiturate sedatives is controversial because of uncertainty regarding the extent to which they provide long-term benefit. There is also the risk of an addictive disorder developing or of relapse occurring in a person with a prior addiction. The extent of this risk is not certain.

Because these drugs have potential for abuse or diversion, strict accountability is necessary when use is prolonged. For this reason the following policies are agreed to by you, the patient, as consideration for and a condition of the willingness of the physician whose signature appears below to consider the initial and/or continued prescription of controlled substances to treat your chronic pain.

1. All controlled substances must come from the physician whose signature appears below or, during his or her absence, by the covering physician, unless specific authorization is obtained for an exception. (Multiple sources can lead to untoward drug interactions or poor coordination of treatment.)
2. All controlled substances must be obtained at the same pharmacy, when possible. Should the need arise at change pharmacies, our office must be informed. The pharmacy that you have selected is: _____
Phone: _____
3. You are expected to inform our office of any new medications or medical conditions, and of any adverse effects you experience from any of the medications that you take.
4. The prescribing physician has permission to discuss all diagnostic and treatment details with dispensing pharmacists or other professionals who provide your health care for purposes of maintaining accountability.
5. You may not share, sell, or otherwise permit others to have access to these medications.
6. These drugs should not be stopped abruptly, as a withdrawal syndrome will likely develop.
7. Urinary or urine or serum toxicology screens may be requested, and your cooperation is required. Presence of unauthorized substances may prompt referral for assessment for addictive disorder.

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A Multi- Specialty Physician Group With 30 Offices Throughout Brevard County

What Can I Do?

- **Never use another person's prescription drugs!**
- Follow directions for use carefully
- Provide completely and accurate medical history
- Be aware of drug interactions
- **Follow all directions carefully!**



**If You Feel That You
Need More Help Call:**

800-662-HELP (4357)

The National Drug Information
and Treatment Referral Hotline

24 hours a day
7 days a week