

PDH Academy

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Identifying the Signs of Addiction: Substance Use Disorders and the Opioid Epidemic

Course Abstract

Health care practitioners often encounter patients with an illness with features that may also be symptoms of a substance use disorder. This course focuses on identifying the signs of substance use disorders with an emphasis on opioid abuse, a national epidemic, that has resulted in the number of overdose deaths involving opioids raising 6 times higher in 2017 than in 1999. On average 130 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose. This course will include case examples and interactive exercises to reinforce learning. The course will also examine the history of drug and opioid epidemics, assessing substance abuse disorders, and an in-depth review of the types of opioids.



"This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval #886745725-4363) for 2 continuing education hours."

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, learners will be able to:

- Identify the signs of substance use disorders with an emphasis on opioid use disorders in patients
- Discuss the causes and impact of the present opioid epidemic
- Recognize the types of opioids and their effect on patients
- Identify screening and assessment tools to assist in identifying substance use disorders

Timed Agenda/Outline

1. Substance Use Disorders (30 min)
 - I. Medical and DSM 5 definition of addiction
 - a. Addiction
 - b. Dependence

- c. Use disorder
 - II. Classification of substance use disorders
 - ACTIVITY: Identify classification of disorder usage**
- 2. Review of classification of drugs and physical/behavioral signs of abuse (45 min)
 - I. Alcohol
 - II. Caffeine
 - III. Cannabis
 - IV. Hallucinogens
 - V. Inhalants
 - VI. Opioids
 - VII. Sedatives, Hypnotics, and Anxiolytics
 - VIII. Stimulants
 - IX. Tobacco
 - REVIEW QUESTIONS**
- 3. Opioid Epidemic (15 min)
 - I. Causes
 - II. Impact
 - a. Communities
 - b. Overdoses
 - c. Deaths
 - REVIEW QUESTIONS**
- 4. Types of Opioids (25 min)
 - I. Opioid Agonist
 - a. Opium
 - b. Morphine
 - c. Codeine
 - d. Oxycodone
 - e. Hydrocodone
 - f. Propoxyphene
 - g. Meperidine
 - h. Diacetylmorphine
 - i. Hydromorphone
 - j. Methyl fentanyl
 - k. Methadone
 - II. Opioid Partial Agonist
 - a. Buprenorphine
 - b. Pentazocine
 - III. Opioid Antagonist
 - IV. Naloxone
 - V. Naltrexone
 - REVIEW QUESTIONS**
- 5. Summary (5 min)

Delivery Method

Correspondence/internet self-study course, including a provider-graded final exam. To earn continuing education credit for this course, you must achieve a passing score of 80% on the final exam.

Course Author

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