

Glossary of Terms

Below is a list of addiction related terms often used by medical and mental health professionals.



Addiction – A chronic (long term) disorder that is difficult to control drug seeking and use despite harmful consequences, as well as long-lasting changes in the brain. In the past, people who used drugs were called “addicts.” Current appropriate terms are people who use drugs or drug users. (3)

Co-Prescribing – Prescribing naloxone together with an opioid for those considered at risk for overdose. (2)

Detoxification – A clearing of toxins from the body. (1)

Intervention – Treatment strategies, therapies, or techniques to help people with a substance use disorder. (1)

Naloxone – Naloxone is an approved medication that can save a person’s life when administered during an opioid overdose. Naloxone reverses the effects of opioids, such as stopped breathing or slowed breathing. (2)

Opioid – A type of drug that reduces pain. Prescription opioids include codeine, morphine, meperidine (Demerol), methadone, Norco, and various other opioid drugs used for cough and pain. Illicit (street) opioids include heroin, fentanyl and carfentanil. (1)

Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) – A problematic pattern of opioid use leading to impairment or distress. (1)

Overdose Reversal – The use of naloxone (Narcan) or other medical help to reverse respiratory depression (breathing has slowed or stopped), caused by opioids that could be harmful or fatal. (2)

Recovery – A process of change to improve one’s health and wellness. (3)

Referral – Linking patients to care and treatment. (1)

Screening – A process to help detect if a person is at risk for a substance use disorder. (1)

Substance Use Disorders (SUD) – A medical term to identify people affected by a substance-related disorder. (1)

Treatment – An intervention to help people get healthy who are suffering from a substance use disorder. With treatment, people can recover, maintain sobriety, and improve their physical and mental health. (1)

References:

- (1) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Substance Abuse Treatment for Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders. Rockville (MD): Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2005). Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series, No. 42.
- (2) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). (2018). HHS recommends prescribing and co-prescribing naloxone to patients at high-risk for an opioid overdose.
- (3) NIDA. (2018 July 2). Media Guide. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publication/media-guide> on 2019, August 29.

View these resources at:

<https://neohospitals.org/Northeast-Ohio-Hospital-Opioid-Consortium/Naloxone-Toolkit>