PREVENTING PRESCRIPTION DRUG & OPIOID MISUSE

Misure of prescription drugs means taking a medication in a manner or dose other than prescribed; taking someone else’s prescription, even if for a legitimate medical complaint such as pain; or taking a medication to feel euphoria (i.e., to get high).

SCOPe OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE

In Connecticut, there were 1,200 accidental overdose deaths during 2019. 94% of which involved opioids.

In 2017, an estimated 18 Million Americans had misused medications at least once in the past year.

3 TYPES OF MEDICATION THAT ARE MOST COMMONLY MISUSED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPIOIDS</th>
<th>STIMULANTS</th>
<th>DEPRESSANTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This type of prescription drug is usually prescribed to treat pain. Examples include Oxycodin, Vicodin and Percocet.</td>
<td>These are most often prescribed to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Examples include Ritalin, Adderall and Vyvanse.</td>
<td>Also known as central nervous system depressants. These are used to treat anxiety and sleep disorders. Examples include Ambien and Xanax.</td>
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DANGERS OF FENTANYL

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POTENTIAL RISKS FOR OLDER ADULTS

More than 80 percent of older patients (ages 57 to 85 years) use at least one prescription medication on a daily basis, with more than 50 percent taking more than five medications or supplements daily. This can potentially lead to health issues resulting from unintentionally using a prescription medication other than how it was prescribed, or from intentional nonmedical use.