

Table 1: Problematic Drug-Related Behaviors and the Likelihood that They Reflect An Underlying Addictive Disorder

Behaviors Probably Less Suggestive of Addiction

- Aggressively complaining about the need for more drug
 - Hoarding the drug during periods of reduced symptoms
 - Requesting specific drugs
 - Openly acquiring similar drugs from other medical sources
 - Escalating the dose without permission or other nonadherence with therapy on one or two occasions
 - Using the drug for an unapproved use (i.e., to treat another symptom)
 - Reporting psychic effects not intended by the clinician
 - Repeatedly resisting changes in therapy despite clear evidence of adverse physical or psychological effects from the drug
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- Resisting a change in therapy associated with “tolerable” adverse effects with expressions of anxiety related to the return of severe symptoms
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Behaviors Probably More Suggestive of Addiction

- Selling prescription drugs
- Forging prescriptions
- Stealing drugs from others
- Injecting oral formulations
- Obtaining prescription drugs from nonmedical sources
- Abusing alcohol or illicit drugs concurrently
- Escalating the dose multiple times or other nonadherence with therapy despite warnings
- Repeatedly “losing” prescriptions
- Repeatedly seeking prescriptions from other clinicians or from emergency rooms without informing prescriber or after warnings to desist
- Demonstrating deterioration in the ability to function at work, in the family, or socially that appear to be related to drug use