

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADDICTION INTERVENTIONS

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the three classes of prescription drugs that are often abused are:

- Opioids, which are used to treat pain
- Central nervous system (CNS) depressants, such as benzodiazepines (Xanax, Valium, Ativan, Klonopin), which are used to treat anxiety and sleep disorders
- Stimulants, such as amphetamine and dextroamphetamine (Adderall) or methylphenidate (Concerta, Daytrana, Methylin, Ritalin), which are used to treat attention deficit disorder and sleep disorders
- Prescription drug addictions can have many side effects including physical and emotional problems, mental and physical withdrawals, and mood swings. People that are discontinuing the use of prescription drugs can be extremely emotional, mentally unstable, and may have physical pain.
- Family members and friends are often baffled, not knowing what to do to help their loved one recover from prescription drug addictions. Intervention Canada can provide families with information about professional interventionists that can facilitate interventions for prescription drug addictions.
- It is important for family members and friends to remember that when a person crosses the line into prescription drug addiction, they can in fact hide it for long periods by justifying the use of medication.
- Family members and friends may think that if their loved one simply stops using the drug, things will get better.
- Addiction to prescription drugs sometimes becomes an issue in cases where a person is using pain medication for injuries or recovery from surgery.
- The addicted person cannot distinguish whether they are feeling physical pain or pain from the withdrawals from prescription drugs.
- It is important for families to not attempt to solve this problem on their own. At Intervention Canada, we can lead the way to supporting the addicted person and help the family find solutions, all under the guidance of a professional interventionist and treatment support services.