



Occupational Health Services of America, Inc.

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THE REAL DEAL ABOUT ...

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS



Prescription drug abuse affected nearly 7 million Americans in 2007. Control of the problem ranges from poorly trained prescribers, to easy internet access without a prescription, and even easier access to drugs

located in the family medicine cabinet. The primary abuse is among young people. They are freely taking and sharing among their peers!

Non-medical use of prescription drugs is up 80% since 2000. Overdose deaths from prescription medication are now the leading cause of accidental death among adults ages 45 to 54. But among physicians, parents and other segments of society, there often seems to be a laissez-faire attitude about the dangers associated with pain medications and other prescription drugs. Partnership for Drug-Free America is currently running public service announcements on many television networks showing a youngster getting into the family medicine cabinet. Stephen Pasierb, president and chief executive of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America said, "There's very low social disapproval." He continued, "In fact, there are parents who (are) almost relieved that their kid is using Vicodin and not smoking marijuana." There is a light at the end of this tunnel and it is a train coming right at us!

From 1995 to 2005 the number of Americans receiving substance abuse treatment related to pain medication jumped by 321%!!!! This increase is staggering. Some authorities believe the most effective outreach efforts should begin with sufficient training for physicians in the pharmacology of potentially dangerous opioid painkillers. The real control is in the hand of the patient. The education is in the information given when the prescription is filled at the local pharmacy. Ask questions to your local pharmacist. Keep your needed medications under lock and key. Only use the medication for what it is prescribed. Always discard unused medication in the toilet! NEVER SHARE your medications. REMEMBER, a positive drug screen for medication not prescribed to the donor remains POSITIVE!

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Because of the increase in prescription medications, we suggest using a 9-Panel Drug Screen instead of the customary 5-Panel. The 9-Panel drug screen includes prescription medications, such as: Opiates (including Synthetic Opiates), Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Methadone and Propoxyphene. Call our office today to find out more.

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