

The Addicted Health Professional

When Alcohol is the Drug of Choice

- * tendency to isolate
- * preference for working alone to avoid being caught
- * irritability with peers, making mountains out of mole hills
- * decrease in productivity as the disease progresses
(Once noted for doing incredible amounts of work in a short period of time, they now are taking more time in performing simple tasks.)
- * lateness and tardiness for work
- * odor of alcohol on breath
- * frequent intoxication at social functions
- * isolation from social functions to drink alone
- * morning hangovers
- * slurred speech
- * illegible writing in charts, if usually neat

When Other Drugs are Used

- * arrive at work early and stay late in order to obtain drugs
- * volunteer for additional shifts to increase access to drugs
- * often volunteer to be in charge of the "med" keys
- * prefer shifts where there is less supervision
- * may exhibit rapid mood swings (irritable with patients one minute, then calm and jovial the next)
- * make frequent trips to the bathroom
- * experience frequent job changes in past 5 years
- * have unexplained lapses between jobs
- * choose positions where supervision is less likely
- * exhibit dilated or constricted pupils