

COMMONLY ABUSED DRUGS: PRESCRIPTIONS AND OTCS

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NIH
National Institute
on Drug Abuse

Prescription																
	Central Nervous System Depressants			Opioids											Anabolic Steroids	
Commercial Names (Common)	Barbiturates: pentobarbital (Nembutal®)	Benzodiazepines: alprazolam (Xanax®), chlorodiazepoxide (Librium®), diazepam (Valium®), lorazepam (Ativan®), triazolam (Halcion®)	Sleep Medications: eszopiclone (Lunesta®), zaleplon (Sonata®), zolpidem (Ambien®)	Codeine (various brand names)	Fentanyl (Actiq®, Duragesic®, Sublimaze®)	Hydrocodone or dihydrocodeinone (Vicodin®, Norco®, Zohydro®, and others)	Hydromorphone (Dilaudid®)	Meperidine (Demerol®)	Methadone (Dolophine®, Methadose®)	Morphine (Duramorph®, Ms Contin®)	Oxycodone (OxyContin®, Percodan®, Percocet®, and others)	Oxymorphone (Opana®)	Amphetamine (Adderall®)	Methylphenidate (Concerta®, Ritalin®)	Nandrolone (Oxandrin®), oxandrolone (Anadrol®), oxymetholone (Anadrol-50®), testosterone cypionate (Depo-testosterone®)	
Description	Medications that slow brain activity, which makes them useful for treating anxiety and sleep problems. For more information, see the Misuse of Prescription Drugs Research Report.			Pain relievers with an origin similar to that of heroin. Opioids can cause euphoria and are often used nonmedically, leading to overdose deaths. For more information, see the Misuse of Prescription Drugs Research Report.											Man-made substances used to treat conditions caused by low levels of steroid hormones in the body and abused to enhance athletic and sexual performance and physical appearance. For more information, see the Anabolic Steroid Abuse Research Report.	
Street Names	Barbs, Phennies, Red Birds, Reds, Toosie, Yellow Jackets, Yellows	Candy, Downers, Sleeping Pills, Tranks	Forget-me Pill, Mexican Valium, R2, Roche, Roofies, Roofinol, Rope, Rophies	Captain Cody, Cody, Lean, Schoolboy, Sizzurp, Purple Drank With glutethimide: Doors & Fours, Loads, Pancakes and Syrup	Apache, China Girl, China White, Dance Fever, Friend, Goodfella, Jackpot, Murder 8, Tango and Cash, TNT	Vike, Watson-387	D, Dillies, Footballs, Juice, Smack	Demmies, Pain Killer	Amidone, Fizzies With MDMA: Chocolate Chip Cookies	M, Miss Emma, Monkey, White Stuff	O.C., Oxycet, Oxy, Hillbilly Heroin, Percs	Biscuits, Blue Heaven, Blues, Mrs. O, O Bomb, Octagons, Stop Signs	Bennies, Black Beauties, Crosses, Hearts, LA Turnaround, Speed, Truck Drivers, Uppers	JIF, MPH, R-ball, Skippy, The Smart Drug, Vitamin R	Juice, Gym Candy, Pumpers, Roids	
Common Forms	Pill, capsule, liquid	Pill, capsule, liquid	Pill, capsule, liquid	Tablet, capsule, liquid	Lozenge, sublingual tablet, film, buccal tablet	Capsule, liquid, tablet	Liquid, suppository	Tablet, liquid	Tablet, dispersible tablet, liquid	Tablet, liquid, capsule, suppository	Capsule, liquid, tablet	Tablet	Tablet, capsule	Liquid, tablet, chewable tablet, capsule	Tablet, capsule, liquid drops, gel, cream, patch, injectable solution	
Common Ways Taken	Swallowed, injected	Swallowed, snorted	Swallowed, snorted	Injected, swallowed (often mixed with soda and flavorings)	Injected, smoked, snorted	Swallowed, snorted, injected	Injected, rectal	Swallowed, snorted, injected	Swallowed, injected	Injected, swallowed, smoked	Swallowed, snorted, injected	Swallowed, snorted, smoked, injected	Swallowed, snorted, smoked, injected, chewed	Swallowed, snorted, smoked, injected, chewed	Injected, swallowed, applied to skin	
DEA Schedule	II, III, IV	IV	IV	II, III, V	II	II	II	II	II	II, III	II	II	II	II	III	
Possible Health Effects	Short-Term	Drowsiness, slurred speech, poor concentration, confusion, dizziness, problems with movement and memory, lowered blood pressure, slowed breathing.			Pain relief, drowsiness, nausea, constipation, euphoria, slowed breathing, death.											Builds muscles, improved athletic performance. Acne, fluid retention (especially in the hands and feet), oily skin, yellowing of the skin, infection.
	Long-Term	Unknown			Increased risk of overdose or abuse if misused.											Kidney damage or failure; liver damage; high blood pressure, enlarged heart, or changes in cholesterol leading to increased risk of stroke or heart attack, even in young people; aggression; extreme mood swings; anger ("roid rage"); extreme irritability; delusions; impaired judgment.
	Other Health-Related Issues	Sleep medications are sometimes used as date rape drugs. Risk of HIV, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases from shared needles.			Pregnancy: <i>Miscarriage, low birth weight, neonatal abstinence syndrome.</i> Older adults: <i>higher risk of accidental misuse or abuse because many older adults have multiple prescriptions, increasing the risk of drug-drug interactions, and breakdown of drugs slows with age; also, many older adults are treated with prescription medications for pain.</i> Risk of HIV, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases from shared needles.											Males: <i>shrunken testicles, lowered sperm count, infertility, baldness, development of breasts.</i> Females: <i>facial hair, male-pattern baldness, enlargement of the clitoris, deepened voice.</i> Adolescents: <i>stunted growth.</i> Risk of HIV, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases from shared needles.
	In Combination with Alcohol	Further slows heart rate and breathing, which can lead to death.			Dangerous slowing of heart rate and breathing leading to coma or death.											Increased risk of violent behavior.
	Withdrawal Symptoms	Must be discussed with a health care provider; barbiturate withdrawal can cause a serious abstinence syndrome that may even include seizures.			Restlessness, muscle and bone pain, insomnia, diarrhea, vomiting, cold flashes with goose bumps ("cold turkey"), leg movements.											Mood swings; tiredness; restlessness; loss of appetite; insomnia; lowered sex drive; depression, sometimes leading to suicide attempts.
Treatment Options	Medications	There are no FDA-approved medications to treat addiction to prescription sedatives; lowering the dose over time must be done with the help of a health care provider.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methadone • Buprenorphine • Naltrexone (short- and long-acting) 											Hormone therapy
	Behavioral Therapies	More research is needed to find out if behavioral therapies can be used to treat addiction to prescription sedatives.			The same behavioral therapies that have helped treat addiction to heroin are used to treat prescription opioid addiction.											More research is needed to find out if behavioral therapies can be used to treat steroid addiction.

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PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE TREATMENT

1. Addiction is a complex but treatable disease that affects brain function and behavior.
2. No single treatment is appropriate for everyone.
3. Treatment needs to be readily available.
4. Effective treatment attends to multiple needs of the individual, not just his or her drug use or misuse.
5. Remaining in treatment for an adequate period of time is critical.
6. Behavioral therapies—including individual, family, or group counseling—are the most commonly used forms of drug use disorder treatment.
7. Medications are an important element of treatment for many patients, especially when combined with counseling and other behavioral therapies.
8. An individual's treatment and services plan must be assessed continually and modified as necessary to ensure that it meets his or her changing needs.
9. Many drug-addicted individuals also have other mental disorders.
10. Medically assisted detoxification is only the first stage of addiction treatment and by itself does little to change long-term drug use and misuse.
11. Treatment does not need to be voluntary to be effective.
12. Drug use during treatment must be monitored continuously, as lapses during treatment do occur.
13. Treatment programs should test patients for the presence of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases, provide risk-reduction counseling, and link patients to treatment if necessary.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) schedule indicates the drug's acceptable medical use and its potential for abuse or dependence. The most up-to-date scheduling information can be found on the DEA website.

OVER-THE-COUNTER		
	DEXTRMETHORPHAN	LOPERAMIDE
COMMERCIAL NAMES (COMMON)	Various (many brand names include "DM")	Imodium
DESCRIPTION	<i>Psychoactive when taken in higher-than-recommended amounts. For more information, see Over-the-Counter Medicines.</i>	<i>An anti-diarrheal that can cause euphoria when taken in higher-than-recommended doses.</i>
STREET NAMES	Robotripping, Robo, Triple C	None
COMMON FORMS	Syrup, capsule	Tablet, capsule, or liquid
COMMON WAYS TAKEN	Swallowed	Swallowed
DEA SCHEDULE	Not scheduled	Not scheduled
POSSIBLE HEALTH EFFECTS		
SHORT-TERM	Cough relief, euphoria; slurred speech; increased heart rate and blood pressure; dizziness; nausea; vomiting.	Controls diarrhea symptoms. In high doses, can produce euphoria. May lessen cravings and withdrawal symptoms of other drugs.
LONG-TERM	Unknown	Unknown
OTHER HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES	Breathing problems, seizures, and increased heart rate may occur from other ingredients in cough/cold medicines.	Fainting, stomach pain, constipation, loss of consciousness, cardiovascular toxicity, pupil dilatation, and kidney failure from urinary retention.
IN COMBINATION WITH ALCOHOL	Unknown	Unknown
WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS	Unknown	Severe anxiety, vomiting, and diarrhea
TREATMENT OPTIONS		
MEDICATIONS	There are no FDA-approved medications to treat addiction to dextromethorphan.	There are no FDA-approved medications to treat addiction to loperamide.
BEHAVIORAL THERAPIES	More research is needed to find out if behavioral therapies can be used to treat addiction to dextromethorphan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The same behavioral therapies that have helped treat addiction to heroin may be used to treat loperamide addiction. • Contingency management, or motivational incentives

NIDA Resources:



NIDAMED – Tools and resources to increase awareness of the impact of substance use on patients' overall health and to help clinicians and those in training identify patient drug use early and prevent it from escalating to abuse or addiction. Learn more at www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed.



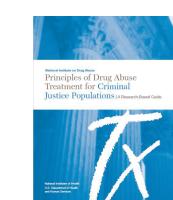
Preventing Drug Use among Children and Adolescents: A Research-Based Guide for Parents, Educators, and Community Leaders – NIDA's research-based guide for preventing drug abuse among children and adolescents provides 16 principles derived from effective drug-prevention research and includes answers to questions on risk and protective factors as well as on community planning and implementation.



Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment: A Research-Based Guide – This guide summarizes the 13 principles of effective treatment, answers common questions, and describes types of treatment, providing examples of scientifically-based and tested treatment components.



Principles of Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Treatment: A Research-Based Guide – This guide discusses the urgency of treating addictions and other substance use disorders in teenagers, answers common questions about how young people are treated for drug problems, and describes effective treatment approaches supported by scientific evidence.



Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations: A Research-Based Guide – NIDA's research-based guide for treating people with addiction who are involved with the criminal justice system provides 13 essential treatment principles and includes answers to frequently asked questions and resource information.

Additional Resources:

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Treatment Locator: <http://www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov>; 1-800-662-HELP.
- The “Find a Physician” feature on the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) website: <http://www.asam.org/for-the-public-treatment>.
- The Patient Referral Program on the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry website: <http://www.aaap.org/patient-resources>.
- The Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Finder on the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Web site: http://www.aacap.org/aacap/Families_and_Youth/Resources/CAP_Finder.aspx.
- The Surgeon General’s Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health: <https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/>
- For clinical trials information, go to www.clinicaltrials.gov.

For More Information:

The NIDA website, www.drugabuse.gov, has information on a variety of drugs and related information. Some publications, including these charts, are available in print, free of charge. To order print copies, call the DRUGPubs Research Dissemination Center at 1-877-NIH-NIDA or go to drugpubs.drugabuse.gov.