



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine

Provider Decision-Making Tools to Improve Care of Patients Who Use Opioids

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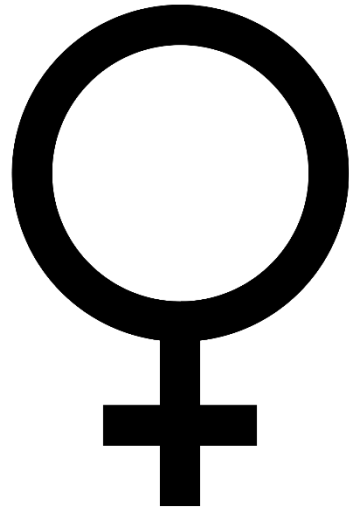
Definitions

- Use: taking a substance for a desired purpose
- Misuse: the use of a medication for a purpose other than as prescribed

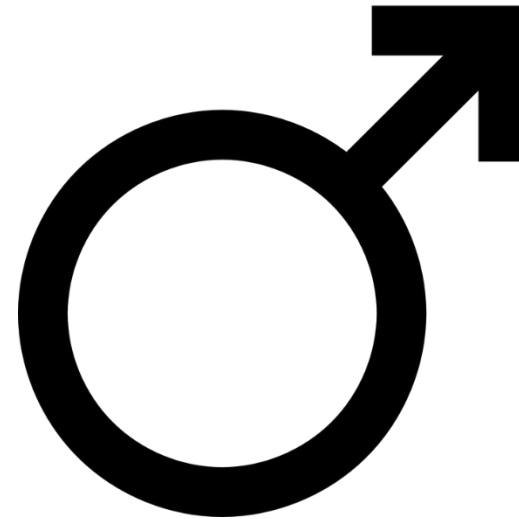


Risky Dosages Do Not Imply a Disorder or Addiction

Risky / unhealthy drinking is the consumption of more than:



- 1 drink on any given day
- 7 drinks per week



- 2 drinks on any given day
- 14 drinks per week

Substance Use Disorder Is Not Addiction

- Substance Use Disorder involves either:
 - Impairment in functioning, or
 - The individual's distress
- E.g.: Most people who have a mild alcohol use disorder will move through that with neither support groups nor treatment



Physical Dependence Is Not Addiction

- Dependence: a physiological state in which the person has physical tolerance (taking more to get the same response) or has physical withdrawal when the substance is not supplied
- Drug Addiction: a chronic brain disease which looks like a person loosing control of their drug use and then loosing control of their lives because of that drug use



Opioid Dependence Leads to Withdrawal

- Within 6-36 hours of last opioid use withdrawal can look like:
 - Muscle and joint pain
 - Gut cramping with diarrhea
 - Vomiting
 - Chills, running eyes, running nose, agitation
 - FETAL RISK in pregnant women
- This happens due to dependence, not addiction
 - This can happen when people take opioids just as prescribed
 - This can STOP within minutes/hours of taking another opioid





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