Department of Health & Human Services DHHS NEBRASKA PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

NeHII Nebraska Health Information Initiative

Common Signs of Drug Abuse

How do I recognize a prescription drug problem?

Warning signs may include:

PHYSICAL: Change from normal capabilities, fatigue, repeated health complaints, poor physical appearance including inattention to dress and personal hygiene, red and glazed eyes, a lasting cough, wearing sunglasses at inappropriate times to hide dilated or constricted pupils, and many doctor visits

EMOTIONAL: Personality change, sudden mood changes, low self-esteem, irritability, irresponsible behavior, poor judgment, depression, and general lack of interest

FAMILY: Starting arguments, breaking rules, and withdrawing from the family

SCHOOL or WORK: Decreased interest, negative attitude, and changes in attendance or level of effort

SOCIAL PROBLEMS: New anti-social friends, stealing items which can be readily sold for cash (to support drug habit), withdrawal from lifelong friends, and association with known drug users

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration