

Substance Use Disorder

A substance use disorder is the frequent use of alcohol and/or drugs which leads to health issues and problems at work, school or home. There is no specific cause for the disorder, but a person's genes, environment and emotional distress all play a role in the development of the disease. Some of the most common substances abused are alcohol, tobacco, stimulants and opioids.

Some of the symptoms of a substance use disorder are characterized by:

- Having intense urges for the drug
- Spending money on the drug even if you can't afford it
- Feeling that you have to use the drug regularly
- Experiencing withdrawal when you stop taking the drug
- Doing risky activities while under the influence
- Continuing to use the drug even when it is causing problems with your life

Drug addiction can begin with the experimental, recreational or social use of the drug, and for some people, it can progress to daily use. Over time, a larger dose will be needed in order to achieve the same effect. Excessive use of drugs/alcohol can negatively impact important areas of life, such as work, school and home. It can also lead to serious health problems, and it's important to seek treatment or support services for this disorder right away.

Recovery is possible with the right type of treatment and support. Those looking to begin recovery should pick a treatment tailored to their individual needs. Some supportive services and treatments include hospitals, community health centers, behavioral health services, inpatient services, medication or community-based support services. Recovery is a process of change where individuals can reduce their substance use, improve their health, wellness and quality of life.

MeridianComplete is a health plan that contracts with both Medicare and Illinois Medicaid to provide benefits of both programs to enrollees.

ATTENTION: If you speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call **1-855-580-1689** (TTY: **711**).

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al **1-855-580-1689** (TTY: **711**).

