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# CHEMICAL · DRUG · PESTICIDE

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DRUG ALERT FOR PARENTS

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Chemicals, Drugs & Pesticides

DEC

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

It may be possible to save an experimental user of narcotics and other dangerous drugs from a life of horror if the problem is detected at a very early stage. There are not enough doctors in this county to examine each and every possible user, but there are enough parents.

Listed below are the more common drugs and narcotics of abuse, physical symptoms, things to look for and dangers involved in abuse.

DRUGS AND NARCOTICS USED	PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS	LOOK FOR	DANGERS
Glue Sniffing	Violence, Drunk appearance, Dreamy or blank expression	Tubes of glue, Glue smears, Large paper bags or handkerchiefs	Lung/Brain/Liver damage, Death through suffocation or choking, Anemia
Cough Medicine Containing Codeine and Opium	Drunk appearance, Lack of coordination, Confusion, Excessive itching	Empty bottles of cough medicine, Medicines missing from medicine cabinet	Causes addiction
Marijuana, Pot, Grass	Sleepiness, Wandering mind, Enlarged eye pupils, Lack of coordination, Craving for sweets	Strong odor of burnt leaves, Small seeds in pocket lining, Cigarette paper, Discolored fingers	Inducement to take stronger narcotics.
Pep Pills, Ups Amphetamines	Aggressive behavior, Giggling, Silliness, Rapid Speech, Dry mouth, No appetite, Confused thinking, Extreme fatigue, Shakiness	Jar of pills of varying colors, Chain smoking	Death from over-dose, Hallucinations

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DRUGS AND NARCOTICS USED	PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS	LOOK FOR	DANGERS
Goof Balls, Downs, Barbiturates	Drowsiness, Stupor Dullness, Slurred speech, Drunk appearance, Vomiting	Pills of varying colors	Death from over- dose, Unconscious
LSD, DMT, STP	Severe hallucinations, Feelings of detachment, Incoherent speech, Cold hands & feet, Vomiting, Laughing & crying	Cube sugar with discoloration in center, Small tube of liquid, Strong body odor	Suicidal tenden- cies, Unpredic- table behavior, Chronic exposure causes brain damage
Heroin, Morphine, Codeine	Stupor/Drowsiness, Needle marks on body, Watery eyes, Loss of appetite, Blood stain on shirt sleeve, Running nose	Needle or hypo- dermic syringe, Tourniquet- string, rope, belt, Burnt bottle caps or spoons, Glassine envelopes	Death from over- dose, Mental deterioration, Destruction of brain and liver

There are a number of activity patterns which are usually associated with drug and narcotic use.

1. Rapid disappearance of clothing and personal belongings from the home.
2. Sudden secrecy about destination.
3. Signs of unusual activity around hangouts and other buildings.
4. Keeping odd hours.
5. Loitering in hallways, alleys or in other areas frequented by addicts.
6. Deterioration in personal appearance or physical health.
7. Frequent unexplained phone calls.
8. Noticeable breakdown in family communication.
9. Spending unusual amounts of time in locked bathroom.
10. Inability to stay in school or hold a job.
11. Rejection of old friends; taking up with strange companions.
12. Using the jargon of addicts.

Sudden personality changes may act as a warning of drug and narcotic use. Some, or all of these changes may be due to "growing up," but they also may be drug warnings.

<u>FROM</u>	CHANGE	<u>TO</u>
Clear, talkative, expressive		Silent, confused, withdrawn
Vital, healthy, energetic		Nervous, up-tight, restless
Poised, confident, self-assured		Oppressed, tormented, persecuted
Helpful, attentive, dependable		Vague, forgetful, disinterested
Cheerful, optimistic, pleasant		Cynical, pessimistic, moody

Thoughtful parents must be alert to all signs, warnings and symptoms of potential tragedy. If you suspect that your child is using dangerous drugs or narcotics, contact your physician immediately.