

Oregon Pharmacy Recovery Network

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY DEFINED

Chemical dependency, as defined by the NABP Ad Hoc Impaired Pharmacists Committee, is “a chronic, progressive illness, characterized by relapse, which involves the use of alcohol or other drugs to a degree that it interferes in the functional life of the registrant/licensee, as manifested by health, family, work, legal, financial or emotional problems.”

Chemical dependency is a chronic, progressive disease that is often fatal and may affect up to ten percent of the general population. This may translate into an estimated 280 of Oregon’s 2,800 pharmacists who are or will become chemically dependent. Over forty states have already implemented programs to assist pharmacists who are chemically dependent or impaired. This disease ultimately presents a danger to the health of the public which the pharmacy profession serves.

THE OREGON PHARMACY RECOVERY NETWORK (OR PRN) PROGRAM

The **ORPRN Program** was established to aid Oregon pharmacists, pharmacy interns and technicians whose health or effectiveness has been adversely affected by chemical dependency. The **ORPRN Program** hopes to reach fellow colleagues before chemical dependency causes impairment or before impairment becomes a danger to the community and a licensing problem. The role of the OR PRN Program is strictly one of referral and rehabilitative support and is divorced from any disciplinary aspect of pharmacy practice.



REFERRAL SERVICES

If you recognize the symptoms of chemical dependency in your association with an Oregon pharmacist, or if you admit your own symptoms as a pharmacist, you are encouraged to call the **ORPRN Program’s** telephone number. Your call will be received by **ORPRN’s** recorded answering service. Leave your name and telephone number. An **OR PRN** advocate, or support pharmacist, who is trained in chemical dependency intervention, and informed of relevant Oregon laws, will return your call in a timely manner to discuss your concern(s), i.e., confidentiality issues, types of services available, benefit of participation, etc. All calls will be kept strictly confidential.

The **ORPRN Program** has contracted with a Drug and Alcohol Counseling Service (DACS) to provide evaluation and referral when appropriate and necessary. This DACS is an independent firm selected by the PRN Steering Committee to provide professional, confidential, and individualized services.

PROGRAM MECHANICS

Self-Referrals - Call the **ORPRN** number and leave a message upon recognizing the potential need for help. An **ORPRN** advocate will return the call within 12 hours. After the confidential assessment, if chemical dependency does exist, a mutually agreed upon treatment plan will be established which could include outpatient, inpatient, or support group assistance. In the event that chemical dependency does not exist, no further action will be taken. If an emergency exists, assistance will be implemented immediately by trained personnel.

Referral of Pharmacy Colleague - Call **ORPRN** and leave your name and phone number. Do not identify the person with whom you are concerned. An **ORPRN**

Advocate will contact you to determine the nature of the concern and the suitability of follow-up. If necessary, an intervener will be assigned to assess the possibility of chemical dependency. If there is insufficient evidence, the case will be closed. If chemical dependency appears to exist, the intervener or **ORPRN** advocate will contact the pharmacist for an appointment. Data will be presented in a confidential, helpful, compassionate, supportive and non-coercive manner. A treatment plan will be mutually agreed upon as above. The person who initiated the investigation will remain anonymous.

An **ORPRN** advocate will aid the pharmacist in recovery by making timely consultations during treatment and after care, and during the transition back to the work environment.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Requests for information or assistance from the **OR PRN Program** for any treatment service are strictly confidential and will be handled in accordance with federal and state (HB 2961) regulations regarding confidentiality.

OREGON BOARD OF PHARMACY

Recognizes **ORPRN** policies and procedures as useful in aiding Pharmacist to recovery.

FEES

The **ORPRN Program** provides free information, assessment, intervention and **ORPRN** advocacy support. The pharmacy professional will be responsible for expenses incurred after referral to treatment.

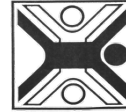
BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS

A few behavioral characteristics which may be indicative of chemical dependency are:

- substance often taken in larger amounts than the person intended
- one or more unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control substance use
- a great deal of time spent in activities necessary to get the substance (e.g., theft), or taking the substance (e.g., “bar hopping”)
- frequent intoxication or withdrawal symptoms when expected to fulfill obligations at work, home, or school (e.g., does not go to work because hung over, goes to work or school “high”)
- frequent intoxication when substance use is physically hazardous (e.g., drives when intoxicated)
- continued use despite knowledge of having a persistent social, psychological, or physical problem that is caused or made worse by the use of the substance (e.g., cocaine-induced depression, ulcer “flare-up” after drinking)
- marked tolerance: need for increased amounts of the substance in order to achieve intoxication or desired effect
- substance often taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms (e.g., alcohol for a “hangover”, opioid, Demerol, codeine, heroin, for the nausea, muscle aches, or “craving”)

Adapted from DSM Third Ed. Revised 1987

If you or a colleague you know needs assistance, please call ORPRN's recorded answering service help-line: (971) 563-3893. An ORPRN advocate will return your call in a timely manner. Strict confidentiality will be maintained with each contact or inquiry.



Oregon PHARMACY RECOVERY NETWORK (OR PRN)
15949 S. HARDING RD. OREGON CITY, OR 97045



PRN

Oregon Pharmacy Recovery Network

*Concerned Pharmacists Seeking
to Assist Fellow Colleagues
Overcome the Adverse Effects of
Chemical Dependency*

**ORPRN HELPLINE
(971) 563-3893**

edwins@prnoforegon.org
www.prnoforegon.org
www.samsha.gov
www.drugabuse.gov
www.alcoholscreening.org
www.clubdrugs.org
www.drugfreeamerica.org