



June 2016

Prescription for Addiction - Medication Abuse

Prescription medications are misused or abused in the U.S. more than any other drug except alcohol and marijuana. This rise is due, in part, to increased availability and the misconception that prescription medications are “safer” than illicit drugs. Unfortunately, those who are addicted to prescription medications often switch to abusing lower-priced illicit drugs, such as heroin or methamphetamines.

500,000 U.S. deaths from medication overdoses 2000-2014

230% Increase in arrests for possession of illegally obtained prescription medicines in Marathon County since 2011

Commonly Abused Prescription Medications

Taken as directed, prescription medications are relatively safe and effective. However, when abused, prescription medications can lead to abuse, addiction and possibly death. Commonly abused classes of prescription drugs include:

Moving From Medication Misuse to Abuse

1. Using someone else’s prescriptions.
2. Not taking medications as prescribed.
3. Taking a prescription to get “high”.

Opioids (for pain)	Central Nervous System (CNS) depressants (for anxiety and sleep disorders)	Stimulants (for ADHD and narcolepsy)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fentanyl (Duragesic®) • Hydrocodone (Vicodin®) • Oxycodone (OxyContin®) • Oxymorphone (Opana®) • Propoxyphene (Darvon®) • Hydromorphone (Dilaudid®) • Meperidine (Demerol®) • Diphenoxylate (Lomotil®) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentobarbital sodium (Nembutal®) • Diazepam (Valium®) • Alprazolam (Xanax®) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine®) • Methylphenidate (Ritalin® and Concerta®) • Amphetamines (Adderall®)

The prescriptions noted above are extremely desirable to those looking to abuse medications and should be kept in a secure place.

For more about commonly abused prescription medications, visit www.drugabuse.gov or www.doseofrealitywi.gov.

What you can do to prevent medication abuse

Secure.

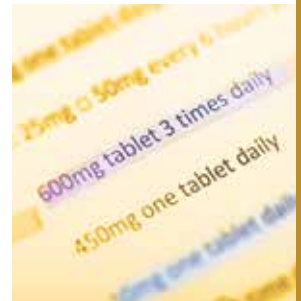
PROTECT your medications like you would any other valuable or poison in your home — keep them out of sight and out of reach!

Monitor.

MAKE A LIST of what medications and quantities you currently have in your home. Keep track of your refills. Control any medications leaving your home, and talk to your loved ones — from toddlers to seniors — about the risks of misuse or abuse of medications.

Dispose.

DO NOT flush unused medications down the toilet or toss them in the trash.
DO NOT hold onto unused medications. It's a disaster waiting to happen.
DO take unwanted or expired medications to a local drop box location for free and safe disposal!



Marathon County Drop Box Locations & Times

MONDAY-FRIDAY (*Lobby Hours*)

Wausau Police Department
(M-F 8 am - 4 pm)

Everest Metro Police Department (M-F 8 am - 5 pm)

Village of Marathon Police Department (M-F 7 am - 4 pm)

Colby-Abbotsford Police Department
(M, W, F 8 am - 5 pm, and
Tues, Thurs 8 am - 1 pm)

24 HOURS / 7 DAYS A WEEK

(*Outside Access*)

Rothschild Police Department

Kronenwetter Police Department



What's In...

- Unwanted or expired prescriptions* and over-the-counter medications (people or pets)
- Pills dumped from original containers into zip-style bags
- Blister packages are accepted without medications being removed
- Liquids & creams in original containers inside zip-style bags

**Special emphasis on commonly abused prescriptions, such as painkillers, relaxants, and mood-altering medications listed on the front page*

What's Out...

- Needles, syringes, or IV bags
- Inhalers
- Personal care products
- Vitamins & supplements
- Medications from businesses such as clinics/group facilities

For more info on how to manage the items listed above, call the Marathon County Solid Waste Department: **1-877-270-3989**.

For more information visit www.aodpartnership.org or www.pushbackdrugs.org