

# Substance Abuse and the Healthcare Worker - An Update

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📁 Radiology

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## Examination

- 1. According to the most recent government estimates, patterns of substance abuse vary by employment status. Which of the following statements is true?**
  - a. A greater percentage of employed individuals when compared to unemployed people report a higher use of cigarettes.
  - b. A greater percentage of employed individuals when compared to unemployed people report a higher use of illicit drugs.
  - c. Because there are many more people who are employed than unemployed, the actual numbers of employed people who report drug and heavy alcohol use far outnumber unemployed people who do so.
  - d. A greater percentage of unemployed individuals when compared to employed people report a higher use of illicit drugs, but the percentage is reversed for the use of cigarettes.
  - e. A greater percentage of employed individuals when compared to unemployed people report a higher use of heavy alcohol.
- 2. In an article published by the American Journal of Nursing (AJN), \_\_\_\_\_ nurses will experience a problem with drugs and or alcohol over the course of his or her career.**
  - a. 1 in 4
  - b. 1 in 5
  - c. 1 in 6
  - d. 1 in 7
  - e. 1 in 8
- 3. All of the following have been documented as playing a role in the disease process of drug and alcohol addition EXCEPT**
  - a. being an offspring of an alcoholic parent
  - b. the individual's environment
  - c. psychological factors
  - d. genetics
  - e. a family history of Alzheimer's Disease
- 4. The financial loss to companies in the United States due to substance abuse totals \_\_\_\_\_ according to The National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information.**
  - a. \$10 million a year
  - b. \$100 million a year
  - c. \$10 billion a year
  - d. \$100 billion a year
  - e. \$1 trillion a year
- 5. The financial loss to companies in the United States due to substance abuse can be measured in all of the following ways EXCEPT**
  - a. the expense of absenteeism and injuries
  - b. the loss of productivity and employee morale
  - c. the cost of theft and fatalities
  - d. the cost of sending the individual to Alcoholics Anonymous
  - e. the expense of health insurance claims

6. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that \_\_\_\_\_ of all work related accidents can be traced to substance abuse.

- a. 50%
- b. 65%
- c. 85%
- d. 90%
- e. 35%

7. All of the following statements are true EXCEPT

- a. Personal reluctance to report an impaired coworker may compound the problem for the impaired healthcare worker and the department.
- b. An addicted healthcare worker is often regarded as a "professional embarrassment".
- c. The disclosure of a substance abuse problem within a coworker may often lead to feelings of paranoia or "finger pointing" at others.
- d. Once reported, the healthcare worker who hasn't come to terms with his or her problem may express anger and feelings of betrayal.
- e. Often when addiction is suspected, the employee is dismissed from their position, which fortunately, prevents the transporting of the individual's addictive behavior to their next job.

8. All of the following statements are true EXCEPT

- a. Most states have mandatory laws that require healthcare professionals to report addicted and or impaired coworkers.
- b. Employer imposed drug testing in the absence of a written policy may constitute a 4th amendment rights violation that protects against unreasonable search and seizure.
- c. A person reporting a suspected coworker (without malice) can still be sued for defamation of character.
- d. Most healthcare professionals are either licensed or certified by national organizations that also require healthcare professionals to report addicted and or impaired coworkers.
- e. The Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 regard recovering drug addicts as handicapped individuals who cannot be denied employment provided the addiction is under control.

9. All of the following statements are true EXCEPT

- a. The Management of medical facilities has a responsibility to develop policies and procedures to ensure a safe environment.
- b. Despite counseling and close monitoring, most professional healthcare workers are not permitted to return to a functional care giving role in their specific healthcare field.
- c. All members of the healthcare team must come together to maintain the safety and security of all patients.
- d. When a healthcare provider does not report a suspected impaired coworker, they are enabling him or her to continue their addictive behavior.
- e. Being a "friend" and not reporting a coworker who is impaired may result in the person becoming totally incapacitated or deceased.

10. Drug abuse is not a single, immediate event, but rather a gradual process. The addict does not know when he or she is moving from one stage into the next, because there is no clear discernible line of separation. For each person the process will differ, depending on all of the following EXCEPT

- a. the choice of substance
- b. the potency of the drug
- c. how the drug is administered
- d. the frequency of use
- e. the availability of the substance

11. All of the following are examples of physical traits and clues commonly associated with substance abuse EXCEPT

- a. Lethargy
- b. Tremors
- c. Excessive talking

- d. Coughing
  - e. Weight loss
12. All of the following are examples of behavior traits and clues commonly associated with substance abuse EXCEPT
- a. Forgetfulness
  - b. Poor concentration
  - c. Lying
  - d. Slurred speech
  - e. Excessive talking
13. All of the following are examples of job performance traits and clues commonly associated with substance abuse EXCEPT
- a. Noncompliance with accepted policies and procedures
  - b. Inability to meet deadlines
  - c. Uncharacteristically quiet
  - d. Sloppy/illegible/erroneous or absent charting
  - e. High rate of absenteeism for implausible reasons
14. Reds, blues, and yellow jackets are examples of
- a. Sedatives
  - b. Hallucinogens
  - c. Inhalants
  - d. Analgesic/opiates
  - e. Stimulants
15. Red devils, triple-C's, or skittles are taken when abusing
- a. dextromethorphan
  - b. propoxyphene
  - c. dextroamphetamine
  - d. methylenedioxyamphetamine
  - e. doxylamine
16. Ecstasy is which of the following abused substances?
- a. dextromethorphan
  - b. methylenedioxyamphetamine
  - c. volatile nitrites
  - d. methaqualone
  - e. phencyclidine
17. Diaphoresis and hypersalivation are physical side effects of which of the following abused substances?
- a. Hallucinogens
  - b. Sedatives
  - c. Inhalants
  - d. Analgesic/opiates
  - e. Stimulants
18. "Poppers" are the street name for which of the following substances?
- a. phencyclidine
  - b. ketamine
  - c. dextromethorphan
  - d. methaqualone

e. volatile nitrites

**19. Which of the following statements is true?**

- a. A healthcare worker should inform another coworker before intervening, even if a patient is in danger of harm from an impaired coworker.
- b. A healthcare worker should not permit a visibly impaired coworker to care for patients.
- c. Healthcare workers should report observations of unsafe practice to the appropriate supervisor at the end of the workday when everyone else has gone home.
- d. For patient safety, a healthcare worker should work along side a visibly impaired coworker until the end of the shift.
- e. To remain anonymous, healthcare workers should report observations of impaired behavior to the supervisor of a different department.

**20. Which of the following statements is true?**

- a. Accurately and completely document any suspicious behaviors or incidents prior to confrontation of a coworker.
- b. Ideally, the suspected employee's supervisor should confront the employee suspected of substance abuse, and he or she should do it alone.
- c. Patient safety is a must, thus the inappropriate disclosure of information or suspicions against a coworker really have no consequences.
- d. Because patient safety is so important, it is not necessary to respect the healthcare workers' right to confidentiality during the investigation process.
- e. Because drug addicted healthcare workers damage the reputation of the healthcare field, coworkers should be judgmental, in order to make an impression on the drug using healthcare worker.

