Introduction



In this interactivity, click on each of the segments below to learn about problems associated with drug use.



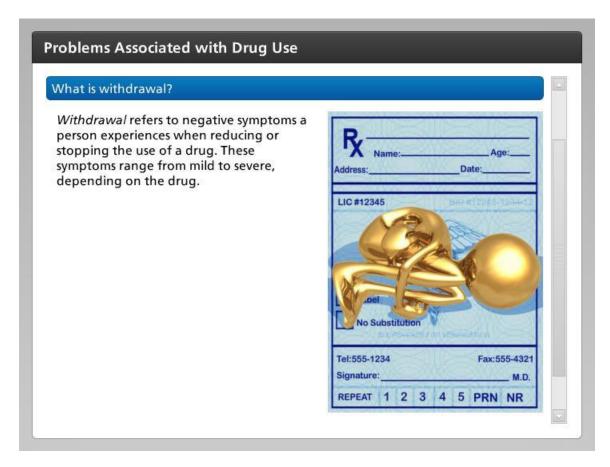
What is dependence?



Dependence is a physical or psychological need for a substance. For example, nicotine users gradually become dependent and experience unpleasant physical symptoms without it. Dependence can also become psychological. Smokers might feel the psychological need to smoke for stress relief or during social situations.



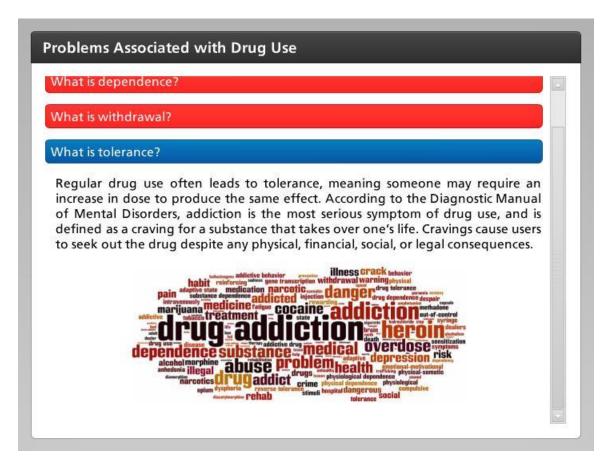
What is withdrawal?



Withdrawal refers to negative symptoms a person experiences when reducing or stopping the use of a drug. These symptoms range from mild to severe, depending on the drug.



What is tolerance?



Regular drug use often leads to tolerance, meaning someone may require an increase in dose to produce the same effect. According to the Diagnostic Manual of Mental Disorders, addiction is the most serious symptom of drug use, and is defined as a craving for a substance that takes over one's life. Cravings cause users to seek out the drug despite any physical, financial, social, or legal consequences.

