



Substance Use Disorders: Prevention Touch Points for Employers in High-Risk Industries

CHASING ZERO
every overdose is preventable

This poster is meant to help employers identify what they can do at various points in time to help prevent substance use disorders related to injury in the workplace. We urge organizations, particularly those in industries where the incidence of injury is high, to consider how they can intervene and help their employees avoid further injury related to opioid use, misuse, and abuse. You may print and display this poster.

START

1

Andy, a roofer in Wisconsin, falls off the scaffolding and injures his lower back.

PREVENTION ACTIVITY

To prevent accidents and injuries, management and supervisors provide oversight and ensure that safety standards are in place and enforced.

TRAINING

How to foster a safe worksite that reduces injuries and accidents

2

Andy goes to the doctor and is put on bed rest, sent to physical therapy, and prescribed Vicodin® for his pain.

PREVENTION ACTIVITY

*Share with Andy alternative pain management options he might want to discuss with his doctor.
Contract with a workers' compensation carrier that clearly makes every effort to curtail opioid use and misuse.*

TRAINING

*The facts about opioids and opioid use disorder
Alternatives in pain management*

3

Andy takes some time to recover but knows the building season will end soon and feels pressure to get back to work. He doesn't want to let his teammates and customers down, and he needs the income.

PREVENTION ACTIVITY

Provide flexible paid time off and implement return-to-work policies and procedures enforcing strict evidence-based standards and practices, such as light or reduced duty.

TRAINING

How post-accident/post-injury light duty work can help morale, mood, and team cohesion, as well as prevent opioid misuse

4

ADDICTION OCCURS:

Andy's overreliance on opioid pain killers eventually gets the better of him, his mind and body crave the drug, and he cannot stop. His prescription runs out and his physician refuses to provide him with any more, so Andy turns to a friend of a friend who begins supplying him with heroin instead. Andy has developed an opioid use disorder and needs treatment now.

4a

Andy enters a quality treatment program, made possible by his employer's health plan.

With his employer's support, Andy completes his treatment program and returns to work.

4b

Andy overdoses, is revived by EMTs, and is treated in the emergency department. Andy must surrender to the truth of his addiction, enter treatment, and learn to live a clean and sober life in recovery.

PREVENTION ACTIVITY

Have overdose reversal drugs like naloxone (Narcan®) at the worksite and provide training on how to inject or administer them.

TRAINING

How post-accident/post-injury light duty work can prevent opioid misuse.

END

Embrace your role as a smart workplace in pursuit of zero overdoses.