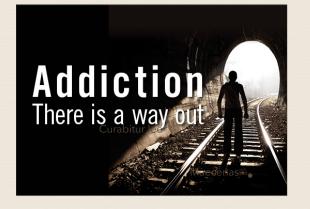
What is Addiction? The simplest definition of addiction is continued use of a drug (or alcohol) despite harmful consequences. Addiction is considered a brain disease because drugs change the brain; they change its structure and how it works. These brain changes can be long lasting and can lead to many harmful, often self-destructive, behaviors.



HOPE



"Drug addiction is a brain disease that can be treated." Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director National Institute of Drug Abuse

> Treating Addiction Saving Lives

COMPREHENSIVE PAIN CARE, PC

Addiction Medicine Division

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ADDICTION TREATMENT



Addiction is a brain disease that destroys lives and tears families apart but it can be treated.

Addicts can get their lives back.

We can help.





The addicts brain has been hijacked. They are no longer themselves. The want to get their life back.

Why can't they just stop?

The initial decision to take drugs is voluntary. However, when addiction takes over, a person's ability to exert self-control can become seriously impaired. The drugs produce physical changes in areas of the brain that are critical for judgment and behavior control. This produces the compulsive and destructive behaviors of an addicted person. In effect, the drugs hijack the brain.

The hijacked brain usually cannot just stop using drugs. It needs help.

We are here to help.



DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT

Addiction is a treatable, chronic disease that can be managed successfully. Research shows that combining behavioral therapy with medications is the best way to ensure success. Untreated addiction usually leads to a failed life and all too often an untimely death.



ARE YOU READY TO GET YOUR LIFE BACK?

Wanting change: This is the first step towards recovery. Most addicts tell us they want their life back. Their brain has been hijacked by the drugs. They do the very things they do not want to do. Over and over they swear to themselves: This is the last time. But it almost never is without help. We can help.

CAN YOU BREAK FREE OF ADDICTION?

Most people who really want to be free can be. Medications can control the physical aspects of withdrawal. For example, one of the most effective treatments for opioid addiction is buprenorphine which allows the addict to leave the unpredictable chaos of the addicted life and return to the stability of a normal life. From this stability, the hijacked brain can heal.

WHAT IS RECOVERY?

Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a selfdirected life, and strive to reach their full potential. Thus, you are in recovery if you are involved in a process of change that improves your health and wellness, helps you determine your own goals (life direction) and helps you achieve your full potential.





The first step in overcoming addiction is to want to change.

If you want to change: There is hope.



It takes work but the chains can be broken. The road to recovery is long and winding but the journey is worth it.



Recovery comes to those

who work for it.



Life in Recovery is a life well lived.