



Risks of Using Substances/Alcohol While Taking Prescribed Medication Acknowledgment Form

Medical Record #: _____

It is important that you understand the potential risks and consequences associated with the use of illegal or non-prescribed substances and alcohol while concurrently taking medications prescribed to you by your treatment provider.

Please read the following carefully and initial each section:

____ I understand that combining prescribed medications with illegal, non-prescribed substances (including but not limited to marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamines, heroin, MDMA, or non-prescribed opioids or benzodiazepines) or alcohol can result in serious health risks, including but not limited to:

- Increased risk of overdose and/or death
- Impaired judgment and functioning
- Worsening of psychiatric symptoms
- Reduced effectiveness of my prescribed medications

____ I acknowledge that using these substances may interfere with my treatment progress and recovery and may lead to a reassessment of my current treatment plan.

____ I understand that my treatment provider may recommend changes to my medications, initiate closer monitoring, or refer me to a higher level of care if substance use is impacting my treatment or safety.

____ I agree to communicate openly with my treatment team about any substance use so that my care can be managed safely and effectively.

____ I acknowledge that ongoing substance use while under prescribed treatment may result in consequences including, but not limited to:

- Adjustments or discontinuation of medication as clinically indicated
- Referral to substance use disorder treatment services

____ I understand that if I am ever in a medical emergency due to drug interactions or overdose, I should call 911 or seek immediate medical attention.

____ I have received and understand the Drug Interactions FACT Sheet

By signing below, I affirm that I have read, understand, and agree to the terms outlined above. I have had the opportunity to ask questions, and all my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

Patient Signature: _____

Date: _____

Provider/Witness Signature: _____

Date: _____



DRUG INTERACTIONS FACT SHEET

1. Increased Sedation and Respiratory Depression:

- **Alcohol and Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants:** Combining alcohol with CNS depressants like opioids (heroin, prescription painkillers), benzodiazepines (Xanax, Valium), or barbiturates can significantly depress the central nervous system, leading to slowed breathing, reduced brain activity, drowsiness, fainting, coma, and increased risk of overdose.
- **Alcohol and Antipsychotics:** Alcohol enhances the sedative effects of antipsychotics, potentially leading to impaired coordination, breathing difficulties, and increased risk of falls and injuries.
- **Alcohol and Antidepressants:** Alcohol can worsen the side effects of antidepressants, particularly those related to drowsiness and sedation.

Combining different types of drugs and medications can lead to dangerous and unpredictable adverse reactions, depending on the specific substances involved and individual factors.

Here's a breakdown of potential risks:

2. Increased Sedation and Respiratory Depression:

- **CNS Depressants:** Combining CNS depressants like opioids, benzodiazepines, or barbiturates can significantly depress the central nervous system, leading to slowed breathing, reduced brain activity, drowsiness, fainting, coma, and increased risk of overdose.
- **Antipsychotics:** Certain medications such as antipsychotics, can enhance the sedative effects of other substances, potentially leading to impaired coordination, breathing difficulties, and increased risk of falls and injuries.
- **Antidepressants:** Combining certain antidepressants with other substances can worsen side effects, particularly those related to drowsiness and sedation.

3. Increased Risk of Overdose and Death:

- **Opioids:** Combining opioids with other CNS depressants dramatically increases the risk of respiratory depression, a primary cause of overdose death.
- **Benzodiazepines:** Similarly, combining benzodiazepines with other CNS depressants can lead to respiratory depression and overdose.

4. Cardiovascular Problems:

- **Stimulants:** Combining stimulants with other substances can put significant strain on the cardiovascular system, increasing the risk of heart attack, stroke, and irregular heart rate.



5. Mental Health Issues:

- **Antidepressants:** Certain substances can worsen symptoms of depression and anxiety, potentially reducing the effectiveness of antidepressant medications and increasing suicidal ideation.
- **Hallucinogens:** Certain substances can intensify negative emotions associated with hallucinogens, increasing the risk of a "bad trip" and potentially leading to dangerous behavior.

6. Impaired Cognitive and Motor Function:

- **General Impairment:** Combining multiple substances significantly impairs judgment, coordination, motor skills, and reaction time, increasing the risk of accidents and injuries.

Important Considerations:

- **Unpredictable Interactions:** The effects of mixing substances can be unpredictable, with the possibility of unexpected and severe reactions.
- **Seeking Help:** If you or someone you know is struggling with substance abuse, it's crucial to seek professional help and support.

Disclaimer: This information is for general knowledge and should not be considered medical advice. Always consult with a healthcare professional or pharmacist regarding potential drug interactions and risks associated with substance use.