

Chemical dependency is...

Primary

Chemical dependency is the original disease. It is not the result of another disease or other factors.

The disease of chemical dependency comes first; other secondary diseases

and symptoms may be caused by the dependency.

No effective healing of physical or behavioral problems can take place until the dependent person stops drinking or using.

Chronic

A chronic disease progresses slowly, is constant and lasts for a long period of time. Other chronic diseases include diabetes, heart disease, emphysema and arthritis. Because of

the disease's slow and subtle nature, the dependent person and people close to him/her may not be aware of the changes caused by the disease.

Progressive

Gone unchecked, the chemically dependent person moves from an early stage where the substance appears helpful and seductive to an uncontrollable craving. In the late stages of the disease, the user's body starts to give up. Many physical

problems arise. His or her mental, emotional and spiritual strength is zapped. Because the disease is progressive, the user's condition becomes increasingly more severe over time.

Fatal

If the chemically dependent person continues to abuse his or her substance, the addiction will eventually lead to death.

◆ Death due to liver, heart, kidney, pancreas and lung failure.

◆ Death due to overdose.

◆ Death due to suicide.

◆ Death due to auto, water or fire accidents.