



Pacific Southwest (HHS Region 9)

ATTC

Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Treatment for Individuals who Use Stimulants

TRUST



**A Protocol Using Empirically-Supported
Behavioral Treatments for People with
Stimulant Use Disorders**

PATIENT WORKBOOK

Name:

Date:

SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

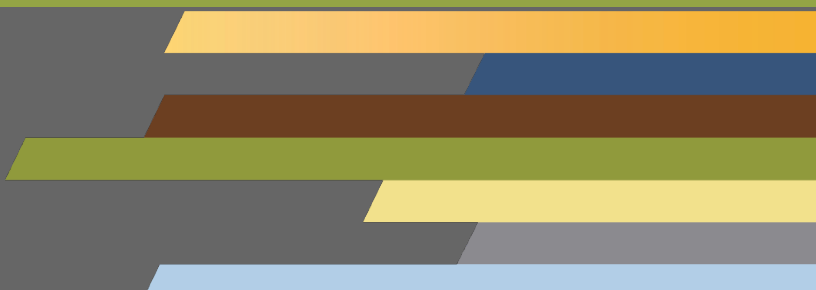
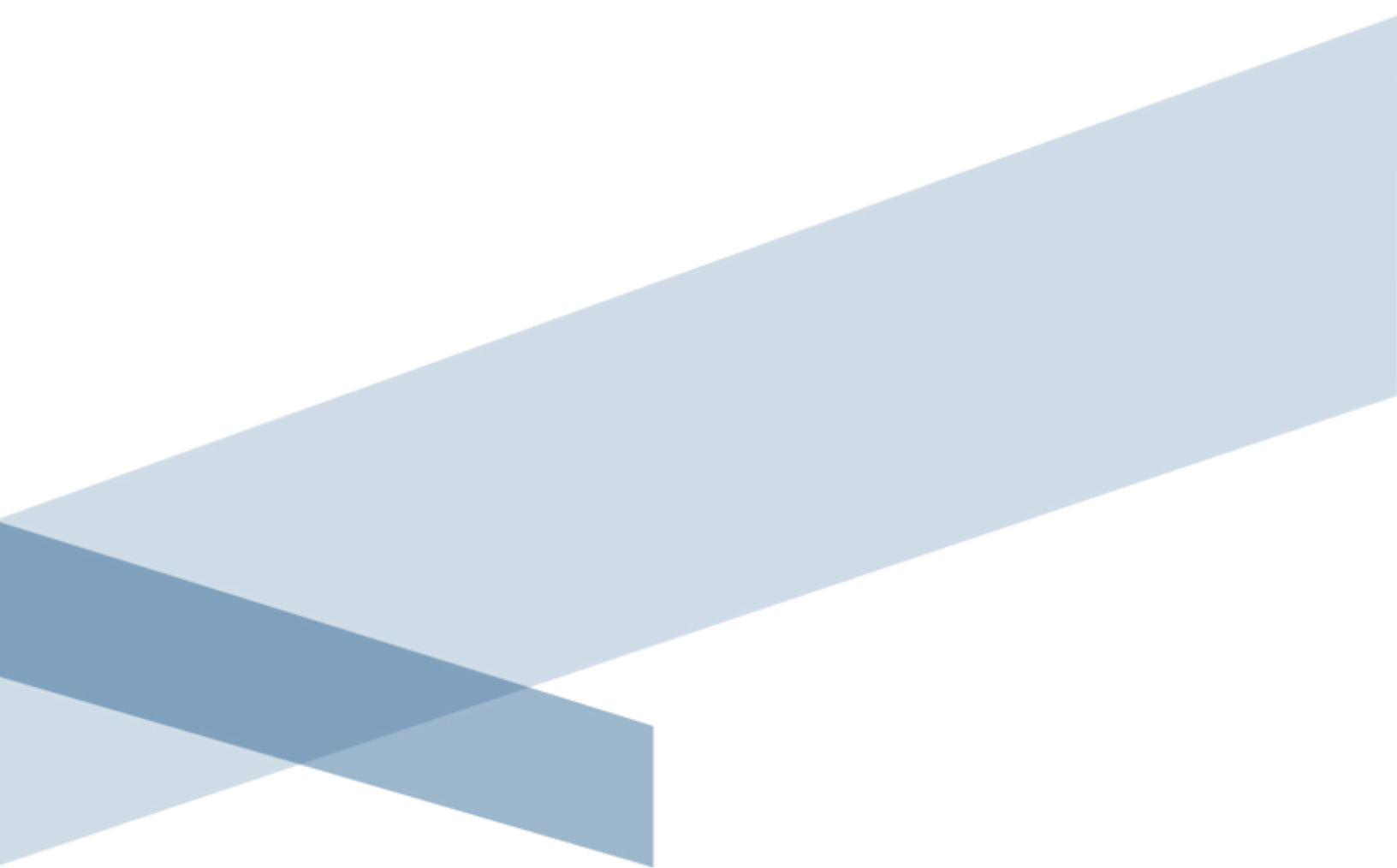


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Introduction

Welcome

You have taken a big step by deciding to come into treatment. You should be very proud of your decision to enter treatment and your commitment to recovery.

This is your Patient Workbook. It contains the worksheets you will need for your treatment. You will find worksheets for three types of sessions: Drug Cessation Group, Recovery Skills Group, and Individual Coaching.

Patient Worksheets

The patient worksheets will help you get the most out of your treatment. Some worksheets ask questions and have spaces for your answers. Other worksheets ask you to read and think about a subject or an idea, or they contain suggestions or reminders about recovery. It is a good idea to keep and review the worksheets after you have used them. They provide information that will help you throughout the course of your recovery.

During each treatment session, your therapist will ask you to follow along on the worksheet while they review it with the group. The therapist will give you time to think about what it says and write your answers to questions it may ask. The group will then discuss the worksheet. You should share your thoughts and ask questions during this time. If you still have questions, there will be more time to ask questions during the last part of each session.

Making the Most of the Sessions

The more work you put into the treatment sessions, the more benefit you will receive from them. Part of the work you should be doing is reading and considering how you can use the information in the worksheets and applying it to your recovery. Other ways to get the most from treatment:

- Attend every scheduled session.
- Arrive for sessions on time or a little early.
- Listen carefully and respectfully to the therapist and the other patients.
- Be supportive of other patients. If you disagree with someone, be polite when you speak to them. Do not attack people personally.
- Use “I” statements.
- Do not talk about other patients’ personal information outside of group sessions. Patients must be able to trust one another if they are to feel comfortable sharing their thoughts.
- Ask questions when you do not understand something.
- Participate in group discussions.
- Do not dominate the conversation. Allow time for other patients to participate.
- Be truthful.
- After the session is over, try to apply what you learned to your recovery.
- Work on the homework assignments that the therapist gives you.



Drug Cessation Group (DCG) Worksheets



DCG Group A. Scheduling

What is scheduling?



A schedule is a plan you make for yourself. Your clinic visits for medication should be the basic framework of your schedule. It is also important to schedule recreation and rest as well as work and appointments. Scheduling will leave less room for impulsive, possibly high risk, behavior which may result in your using drugs.

Why should I schedule?



It is important to build a structure around yourself that helps you to avoid drugs and risky situations. Moving from addiction is like getting out of a mine field. You need to be very careful where you are going and where you are stepping. Initially, how you got to where you are is not important; getting out is.

At the Clinic. For many people, the waiting room, parking lot, or other areas near the clinic can be dangerous (for example, people who are high, dealing or drug using friends).

It may be necessary to change your visit times or your usual route to and from the clinic.

In this the case for you? If so, what can you do?

Are there other times or places where you often “run into drugs”? If yes, how can you plan your time to avoid these? Briefly describe.

Do I need to write it down?



Absolutely. Schedules that are not written down are too easily revised.

Daily/Hourly Schedule

Date		Date		Date	
7:00		7:00		7:00	
8:00		8:00		8:00	
9:00		9:00		9:00	
10:00		10:00		10:00	
11:00		11:00		11:00	
12:00		12:00		12:00	
1:00		1:00		1:00	
2:00		2:00		2:00	
3:00		3:00		3:00	
4:00		4:00		4:00	
5:00		5:00		5:00	
6:00		6:00		6:00	
7:00		7:00		7:00	
8:00		8:00		8:00	
9:00		9:00		9:00	
10:00		10:00		10:00	
11:00		11:00		11:00	
12:00		12:00		12:00	

Notes/reminders:

DCG 1 – Drugs-Drug Paraphernalia

Drugs

It is critical to throw away any drugs you still have. Your home, your car, and the places you go need to be as safe as you can make them.

1. Which rooms have stashes of drugs/paraphernalia?

2. Where specifically would you likely find drugs/alcohol/paraphernalia in your house?

3. How safe is your car?

4. Are there places in or around the clinic that you need to avoid? If so, how can you best do this?

Drug Paraphernalia

Paraphernalia are items used for, or related to, your drug use. Paraphernalia can trigger intense cravings. It is important to separate yourself from all paraphernalia as completely as possible.

Use the following checklist to remind yourself of items to get rid of.

___ Vials

___ Spoons

___ Pipes

___ Syringes

___ Straws

___ Phone numbers

___ Lighters/Torches

___ Other

DCG – 1 Drug-Using Friends



Friends, family, and acquaintances who use drugs present an extreme risk as they can be “triggers” for your use.

- If you can avoid these people do so.
- If you expect to run into them, you need to be clear and direct. “I’m not using anymore.” “Nothing personal, but we cannot be around one another. It’s not that I don’t trust you, I don’t trust me.” Then immediately LEAVE.
- If someone unexpectedly shows up at your place, be clear and direct and do not invite them inside.
- Sometimes people at the clinic will want to talk about drugs or where they can be purchased.

Who are people you need to avoid? (first name, or initials)

What will you say to these people?

If someone at the clinic tries to engage you in a discussion about drugs, how will you respond?

DCG 2 – Common Challenges in Stopping Drug Use

Everyone who attempts to stop using stimulants runs into situations that make it difficult to maintain abstinence. Listed below are some of the most common situations that are encountered during the first few weeks of treatment. Next to these problems are some suggested alternatives for handling these situations.

Challenges

1. Anger, irritability: Small events can create feelings of anger that seem to preoccupy your thoughts and can lead to relapse.
2. Boredom, loneliness: Stopping substance use often means that activities you did for fun can be a problem.

New Approaches

- Remind yourself that you are experiencing a healing of the brain and strong unpredictable emotions are a natural part of recovery.
- Exercise.
- Talk to a therapist or supportive friend.
- Put new activities on your schedule.
- Go back to activities you enjoyed before your drug use took over.
- Try to find new friends at community support meetings.



3. Special Occasions: Parties, dinners, holidays, celebrations



4. Encountering using friends at the clinic

- Have a plan for answering questions about drug or alcohol use (or not using).
- Start your own drug-free celebrations and traditions.
- Have your own transportation to and from events.
- Leave if you get uncomfortable or start feeling deprived.
- Attend the clinic when there are fewer patients.
- Develop effective ways of avoiding conversations at the clinic.
- Directly let people know that you don't want to discuss drugs.

Which of these issues are likely to be a problem for you in the next few weeks?

How will you handle them?

DCG 3 – TriggersThought-stopping

The Losing Argument

- Even though you've decided to reduce/stop meth/cocaine use, you will often find yourself thinking of using. Your brain tries to give you permission to use through a process we call "drug use justification."
- As you think about drug use, your brain will often start an internal argument where part of you wants to use and part of you doesn't want to use. The argument inside you can be part of a series of events leading to drug use.

The "Automatic" Process

During addiction, triggers, thoughts, cravings and use all seem to run together. However, the usual sequence goes like this:

TRIGGER → THOUGHT → CRAVING → USE

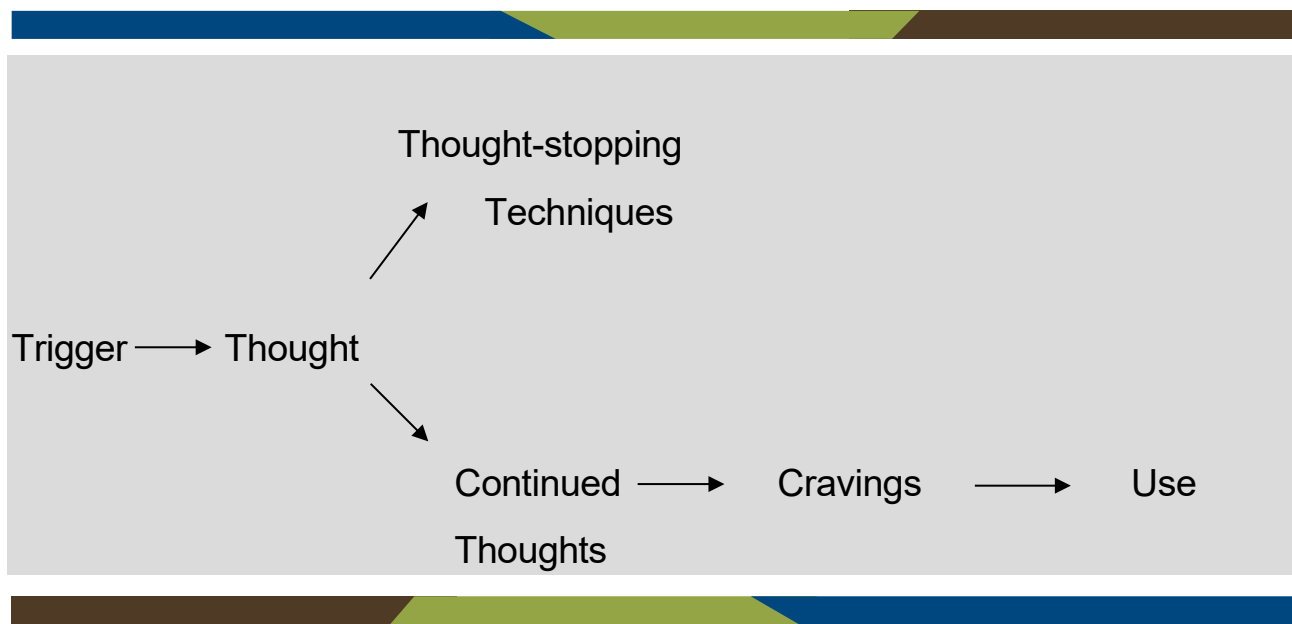
Thought-Stopping



- The key to success is stopping the thought before it becomes a craving.
- It is important to respond to the thought as soon as you recognize it occurring.
- Allowing yourself to think about drug use, buying drugs, old drug experiences, etc., is taking a step toward drug use.
- The quicker you can stop the thought the more successful you will be in not using.

A New Sequence

In order to get recovery started it is necessary to change the trigger - use sequence. Thought – stopping provides a tool for breaking the process. The choice is:



You make a choice. It is not automatic.

Techniques for Thought-Stopping

Try the techniques described and use those that work best for you.

VISUALIZATION – There are many ways to use your imagination to substitute a new thought in place of the drug thought. Some include:

- ✓ Picture a switch or a lever in your mind. Imagine yourself actually moving it from ON to OFF to stop the drug thoughts.
- ✓ Focus on a positive memory/scene from your life that is something you enjoy thinking about. A great view from a mountain when you went on a hike. The face of your child or a parent. Any thought that has a strong positive effect.

SNAPPING – Wear a rubber band on your wrist loosely. Each time you become aware of drug thoughts snap the band and say "NO!" to the thoughts as you make yourself think about another subject. Have a subject ready that is something meaningful and interesting to you.

RELAXATION/MEDITATION – Thoughts can be avoided or replaced by taking a deep breath and then focusing on your normal breathing. Prayer can also be a productive way to take your mind off drugs.

EXERCISE – Exercise is a great way to get your brain to think about more positive things.

CALL A SOBER FRIEND OR SPONSOR – Talking with a positive person can be very helpful.

Can you imagine yourself using any of these activities? If yes, which ones?



DCG 4 – Your Brain and Recovery



In understanding and dealing with addiction it is important to think about your brain regarding two very powerful and different parts:

1. The higher, rational brain. This is the decision-making part of your brain.
2. The lower, emotional centers in the brain. This is your pleasure center.

Decisions to use drugs or alcohol start in the higher brain. You weigh the positives and negatives associated with using, and when you use, the pleasurable experiences happen in the lower brain.

After a time, as the negative consequences of use mount, you have probably decided at times to stop using but you are not able to stop. You decide in your higher brain, but the decision to stop is overpowered by your lower brain.

What happens?

Most people describe cravings that overpower the rational decision to stop using.

Why does this happen?

1. After a period of regular substance use, the people, places, and circumstances that have been associated with the drug use have the power to trigger a response in the lower, “addicted,” brain.
2. When this happens, you feel a craving and your thinking changes making it seem OK to use, “one more time,” or “just a little bit,” etc.

Why is this important?

1. The triggered reaction in the lower brain cannot be directly controlled. This automatic reaction is like a reflex.
2. No amount of good intentions, promises, or commitments will reduce the strength of the cravings.

3. If you are around people, in places, or in situations where you have used in the past, the chances are great that you will use again even if you have a sincere desire to stop using.
4. If you understand substance dependence you can begin to effectively deal with it.

What can you do about this?

1. Change your behavior so that you avoid the things that will trigger cravings.
2. Start doing new, healthy, alternative behaviors.
3. Reassume higher brain control of what you do by planning your day and scheduling you time.

Understanding the brain and addiction makes sense out of your behavior up until now and provides the key to beginning your first steps in recovery.

1. Have you tried to stop in the past and failed? What happened?

2. What could you have done differently in light of what you know now about the brain?

Brain Changes by Drug Use.

The brain has neurons that release and receive dopamine. Dopamine is a brain chemical that allows us to feel pleasure, happiness, and positive emotions. As people use meth and cocaine, the brain becomes addicted, one of the major parts of the biology of addiction is the result of how methamphetamine and cocaine change the dopamine system. The good news is that the brain recovers with time and no stimulant use. In a sense the brain “heals.” Understanding this aspect of addiction is important for people to understand so they can see hope for the future when stimulant use is stopped.

Video Clip 1. Normal dopamine function

Press play below, or access the video online here:

<https://vimeo.com/418131516>



Video Clip 2. Dopamine system changes from the use of methamphetamine

Press play below, or access the video online here: <https://vimeo.com/418132723>



Video Clip 3: Dopamine recovery with abstinence from methamphetamine.

Press play below, or access the video online here:

<https://vimeo.com/433507468>





Recovery Skills Groups (RSG) Worksheets



RSG 1 – Building a Recovery Support Program: Mooring Lines ----- Avoiding Recovery Drift

Mooring line – Ropes or cables that hold a boat from drifting away from its dock/pier.

Recovery from stimulants doesn't "just happen". You build the recovery with your behavior. You add new behaviors to your life. These might include: Attendance at treatment sessions, 12 Step meetings, exercise, scheduling your time, meditation, spending time with drug-free friends, yard work, etc.

These recovery behaviors become your "mooring lines". These activities keep you from moving toward drug use.

How It Happens

- Drug use does not suddenly occur. It does not happen without warning, and it does not happen quickly.
- The slow movement away from sobriety can be compared to a ship gradually drifting away from where it was moored. The drifting movement can be so slow that you don't even notice it.

Interrupting the Process

- During recovery, each person does specific things that work to keep them sober.
- These "mooring lines" need to be clearly stated and listed in a very specific way so they are clear and measurable.
- These are the ropes that hold the recovery in place and prevent drift back to drug use from happening without being noticed.

Maintaining a Recovery

Use the Mooring Lines Recovery Chart to list and track the things that are holding your recovery in place. Follow these guidelines when filling out the form:

1. Identify 4 or 5 specific things that are now helping you stay sober. (e.g., working-out for 20 min., 3 times per week).
2. Include items such as exercise, therapist and group appointments, scheduling, 12-Step meetings, eating patterns, etc.
3. Do not list attitudes. They are not as easy to measure as behaviors.
4. Note specific people or places that are known triggers and need to be avoided during the recovery.

The checklist should be completed regularly (probably weekly). When two or more items cannot be checked, it means that recovery drift is happening. Sometimes things weaken your mooring lines. Vacation, illnesses, and holidays sometimes cannot be controlled. The mooring lines loosen up. Many people return to drugs during these times. Use the chart to recognize when you are more likely to use and decide what to do to keep this from happening.

RSG 1a – Mooring Lines; Recovery Chart

Use the chart below to list those activities that are very important to your continuing recovery. If there are specific people or things you need to avoid, list those. Look back at your list regularly to check yourself and make sure you are continuing to stay moored in your recovery.

Mooring Line Behaviors	Date (✓)	Date (✓)	Date (✓)	Date (✓)	Date (✓)
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
I am Avoiding	Date (✓)	Date (✓)	Date (✓)	Date (✓)	Date (✓)
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

RSG 2 – Internal Trigger Questionnaire



During recovery, there are often certain feelings or emotions that trigger the brain to think about using drugs. Read the following list of emotions and indicate which of them might trigger (or used to trigger) thoughts of using for you:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| _____ Afraid | _____ Frustrated | _____ Neglected |
| _____ Angry | _____ Guilty | _____ Nervous |
| _____ Confident | _____ Happy | _____ Sexy |
| _____ Criticized | _____ Inadequate | _____ Pressured |
| _____ Depressed | _____ Insecure | _____ Relaxed |
| _____ Embarrassed | _____ Irritated | _____ Sad |
| _____ Excited | _____ Jealous | _____ Bored |
| _____ Exhausted | _____ Lonely | _____ Tired |

1. Which of the emotions above are the most often triggering for you?

2. Are there any times in the recent past in which you were attempting to not use and a specific change in your mood clearly resulted in your using? (For example, you got in an argument with someone and used in response to getting angry.) Yes _____ No _____

If yes, describe: _____

RSG 3 – External Trigger Questionnaire

1. Place a check mark next to activities or situations in which you frequently used stimulants. Place a **zero (0)** next to activities or situations in which you never have used stimulants.

<input type="checkbox"/> Home alone	<input type="checkbox"/> Before a date	<input type="checkbox"/> After payday
<input type="checkbox"/> At home with friends	<input type="checkbox"/> During a date	<input type="checkbox"/> Calling friends who use
<input type="checkbox"/> At a friend's home	<input type="checkbox"/> Before sex	<input type="checkbox"/> Before work
<input type="checkbox"/> At a party	<input type="checkbox"/> During sex	<input type="checkbox"/> At a lunch break
<input type="checkbox"/> At the clinic	<input type="checkbox"/> After sex	<input type="checkbox"/> In some neighborhoods
<input type="checkbox"/> At bars/clubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Before work	<input type="checkbox"/> After work
<input type="checkbox"/> At night to stay awake	<input type="checkbox"/> When carrying money	<input type="checkbox"/> Driving in some areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Before going to the clinic	<input type="checkbox"/> Near a dealer's place	<input type="checkbox"/> Texting certain people
<input type="checkbox"/> When I gain weight	<input type="checkbox"/> With drug using friends	Other _____

2. List any other settings or activities where you use meth/cocaine.

3. List activities or situations in which you would not use.

4. List people you could be with and not use meth/cocaine.

RSG 2a-3a – Trigger Chart

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: List people, places, objects, situations, and emotions below according to how likely they would trigger drug or alcohol use.



Chance of Using

Chance of Using

Never Use

Almost Never Use

Almost Always Use

Always Use

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

These are "safe" situations.

These are low risk, but caution is needed.

These situations are high risk. Staying in these is dangerous.

Involvement in these situations is deciding to stay involved with drug use. Avoid totally.

RSG 4 – Taking Care of Yourself



During periods of drug use people often do not take care of themselves. There is often not enough time or energy to attend to health and grooming when you are using. How you look becomes unimportant. Health is secondary to drug use.

- Not caring for yourself is a major factor in losing self-esteem.
- This is a time to recognize your own value. In recovery, your own health and appearance become more important as you care more for yourself.
- It is part of starting to like and respect yourself.

Attending to the following will strengthen your image of yourself as a healthy, drug-free, person.



1. Have you seen a doctor for a thorough check-up?

2. When is the last time you went to the dentist?



3. Have you considered getting a "new look" next time you cut your hair?

What kind of changes might you like to try?



4. Are you paying attention to what you are eating? Is it too much, too little or of adequate nutritional value? How many meals a day do you eat?



5. Do you still wear the same clothes you wore during your using episodes?



6. Do you need to have your vision or hearing checked?



7. What exercise do you do regularly?



8. Is your caffeine or nicotine intake out of control?

- If doing all these things at once is too overwhelming, work on one or two items each week.
- Decide which are the most important and do those first.
- You will begin to see a person you like and respect.

The first thing I need to do to take care of myself is:

RSG 5 – Be Smart; Not Strong

"I can be around drugs/alcohol. I am certain I don't want to use and once I make up my mind, I'm very strong."

"I have been doing well and I think it's time to test myself and see if I can be around friends who are using. It's just a matter of willpower."

Staying off stimulants takes more than just strength or will power. The key to not using is to keep far away from drug use situations. The closer you get, the more likely you are to use. If meth/cocaine appears unexpectedly and/or you are around friends who are using, your chances of using are much greater than if you weren't in that situation. Be smart and avoid triggers as much as possible.



How smart are you being? Rate how well you are doing in avoiding using cocaine and/or meth:

	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>
1. Practicing Thought-Stopping	1	2	3	4
2. Scheduling	1	2	3	4
3. Keeping Appointments	1	2	3	4
4. Avoiding Triggers	1	2	3	4
5. Not Using Alcohol	1	2	3	4
6. Not Using Drugs	1	2	3	4
7. Avoiding Individuals who use Drugs/Alcohol	1	2	3	4
8. Avoiding Drug/Alcohol Places	1	2	3	4
9. Exercising	1	2	3	4
10. Being Truthful	1	2	3	4
11. Attending scheduled medication visits	1	2	3	4

Which area(s) do you want to improve?

How do you plan to do that?

RSG 6 – Drug Use Justification

Once a person decides not to use drugs anymore, how does it happen again? Is there some way of avoiding the return to drug use?

Drug use justification is a process that happens in people's brains. The addicted part of the brain invents excuses that move the person close enough to drug use situations so that “accidents” can and do happen. You may remember times when you were planning to stay drug free, and the mental justification process happened before you used again.

Use the questions below to help you identify justifications your addicted brain might use and interrupt the process with thought-stopping.

Accidentally or Other People

Does your addicted brain ever try to convince you that you have no choice when an unexpected situation catches you off-guard? Have you ever said any of the following to yourself?

1. It was offered to me. What could I do?
2. An old friend called, and we decided to get together.
3. I was cleaning my house and found drugs I'd forgotten about.
4. I was in a bar, and someone offered me a beer.
5. Other _____.

Catastrophic Events

Is there one unlikely, major event that is the only reason you would use? What might such an event be for you? How would using drugs improve the situation?

1. My spouse left me. There's no reason to stay drug free.
2. I just got injured. It's ruined all of my plans. I might as well use.
3. I just lost my job. Why not?
4. Other _____

For a Specific Purpose

Has your addicted brain ever suggested that using a certain drug or alcohol is the only way to accomplish something?

1. I'm gaining weight and need stimulants to control my weight.
2. I'm out of energy. I'll function better.
3. I need drugs to meet people more easily.
4. I can't enjoy sex without using.
5. Other _____

Depression, Anger, Loneliness, and Fear

Does feeling depressed, angry, lonely, or afraid make using seem like the answer? Is it really? What might you do when your addicted brain says the following to you?

1. I'm depressed. What difference does it make if I use or not?
2. When I get mad enough, I can't control what I do.
3. They think I've used, I might as well use.
4. Other _____

My Addiction is Cured

Everyone struggles with the fact that addiction and recovery are on-going processes. Does your addicted brain ever try to convince you that you can use just once or just a little?

1. I'm back in control. I'll be able to stop when I want to.
2. I've learned ... I'll only use once in a while.
3. This drug (or alcohol) was not my problem – the other one was. So, I can use this and not use the other.

Testing Yourself

Would your brain like to prove you can be stronger than drugs/alcohol? It's very easy to forget that being smart is the key to staying sober; not being strong. Have you ever thought?:

1. I'm strong enough to be around it now.
2. I want to see if I can say "no" to drinking/using.
3. I want to see if I can be around my old friends.
4. I want to see how stimulants feel now that I've stopped.

RSG 7 – Building a Recovery Support Program: Mooring Lines ----- Avoiding Recovery Drift

Mooring line – Ropes or cables that hold a boat from drifting away from its dock/pier.

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The checklist should be completed regularly (probably weekly). When two or more items cannot be checked, it means that recovery drift is happening. Sometimes things weaken your mooring lines. Vacation, illnesses, and holidays sometimes cannot be controlled. The mooring lines loosen up. Many people return to drugs during these times. Use the chart to recognize when you are more likely to use and decide what to do to keep this from happening.

RSG 7a – Mooring Lines; Recovery Chart

- In becoming sober you have had to learn to do certain new behaviors - behaviors that work for you in keeping you sober.
- Charting the new behaviors and checking occasionally to make sure the lines are secure can be very useful.

Use the chart below to list those activities that are very important to your continuing recovery. If there are specific people or things you need to avoid, list those. Look back at your list regularly to check yourself and make sure you are continuing to stay moored in your recovery.

Mooring Line Behaviors	Date (□)	Date (□)	Date (□)	Date (□)	Date (□)
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
I am Avoiding	Date (□)	Date (□)	Date (□)	Date (□)	Date (□)
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

RSG 8 – Addictive Behavior

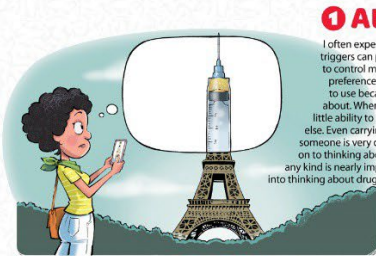
As drug use increases, eventually the use affects almost all areas of life. Stopping stimulant use requires you to leave all the drug behaviors behind.

However, they can creep back into life and often are signals that a return to drug use is going to happen. Learning to recognize when one or more of these begin happening will help you know when to start fighting extra hard to move away from using drugs.

Which of these behaviors do you think are related to your stimulant use?

- Lying
- Stealing
- Being irresponsible (not meeting family/work commitments)
- Being unreliable (late for appointments, breaking promises, etc.)
- Being careless about health and grooming (wearing “using” clothes, stopping exercise, poor diet, messy appearance)
- Taking medication not according to directions
- Behaving impulsively (without thinking)
- Behaving compulsively (too much eating, working, sex, etc.)
- Changing work habits
- Losing interest in things (recreational activities, family life, etc.)
- Isolating (staying by yourself much of the time)
- Missing clinic appointments
- Other _____

10 Brain Functions Injured by Alcohol & Other Drugs



1 Attention

I often experience that environmental triggers can produce an inability in me to control my desire to use my drug of preference, even when I do not want to use because using is all I can think about. When this happens, I have very little ability to shift my focus to anything else. Even carrying-on a conversation with someone is very difficult when I am locked-on to thinking about using. Multi-tasking of any kind is nearly impossible when I am pulled into thinking about drug use when driven by environmental cues.



2 Memory

I believe my memory has been negatively affected by my drug use. I seem to experience "involuntary" memories related to my using such as when I pass by or think about places where I would use. I am experiencing lapses in short-term memory, forgetting things as recent as what I had for lunch or if I returned a phone call. I feel like this may cause others to lose trust in me.

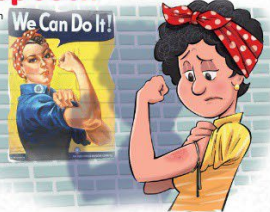


3 Decisions & Control

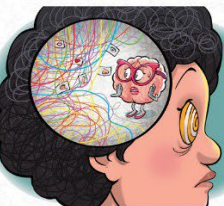
I can make a decision to refrain from using but many times, I am unable to follow-through with my decision. I feel powerless over my ability to not use, even when I don't want to, especially if I have recently used. Once I am in the presence of and actually see my drug of preference, I lose control. I cannot successfully choose to not use, as if a powerful force takes over and I am at the mercy of craving my drug, using despite my resolve not to. When I am craving, I feel emotionally unstable, my mood changes quickly from happy-to-sad, angry-to-torment, without much stimulus to incite the change. It just happens, without my permission.

4 Movement & Speech

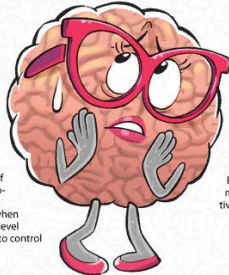
I often find myself searching for the right words in conversations, words I used to know in the context for which I seek them. I feel very limited in my vocabulary resources; very unlike I used to feel in conversation which was confident and adept. I find myself stuttering and/or groping for words. I also feel like my coordination and dexterity have diminished a great deal. Movements and tasks that used to come very easily for me are much more difficult and I feel sluggish. My driving skills and confidence behind the wheel have diminished and this makes me very fearful of being at high-risk to have an accident.



5 Brain-Body Connection



I do not feel like I am in touch with my bodily senses anymore. When I am stressed, craving, depressed or anxious I do not feel like my mind and body communicates; therefore, I am not aware what my body may need at certain times, such as when I need to hydrate, when I am hungry or fatigued. It's like my mind and body are completely out of touch with each other. My emotions often present themselves through bodily sensations, so when I don't pay attention to my "gut level senses", the result is an inability to control these emotions.



6 Arousal and Sleep

I have a difficult time falling asleep and staying asleep. I wake-up startled and anxious. I can feel my heart beat too loudly, remain anxious, excitable and easily aroused. I find it very hard to become calm once I am experiencing these states. In contrast, sometimes I feel drowsy and sleepy when I believe I should be alert during work. My body, mental state, and emotional being feel heavy and I often find physical movement and motivation to move very challenging.



7 Feeling Bad

I often experience negative feelings like a dramatic sense of guilt, becoming stuck in the self-doubt, and a profound fear of abandonment. Experiencing these feelings around my drug use creates a great deal of anxiety, even confuses and angers me. Certain words and sounds can be distressing, causing me to feel intensified anxiety and stress. These negative feelings result in an intense DRUG CRAVING in me. Despite evidence from experience to the contrary, I can still find myself believing that using drugs is the only solution to help me relax and feel better.

8 Feeling Good

The seduction of drugs for me is highly rewarding and beckons me, loudly and frequently. The rewarding experience begins with simply thinking about my drug or obtaining it. It induces a kind of pleasure for me that even thinking about them not just seeing, causes this change. The degree of promised reward from my drug profoundly replaces other formerly pleasurable things. I seem to avoid doing things and going places that I used to enjoy. Without using drugs to change the way I feel, I do not seem to have effective skills to entertain myself or possess a basic interest in doing previously enjoyable activities alone.



9 Social Cognition

I have difficulty identifying and expressing my emotions, clearly and understandably. I realize that I cannot accurately pick-up on cues coming from other people about how they see me or interpret my behavior, so I have lost my ability to empathize. Because I cannot access this type of insight, communicating with my family and others is especially difficult for me. I also seem to be unable to and uninterested in making new friends.

10 Awareness & Insight

Despite what some of my friends, relatives, and co-workers might say, I do not see myself as someone who has a disease, needs medical care or other treatment. I only drink and use recreationally and can stop anytime I want to. I simply don't want to. I am tempted to use because it feels good when I use. I like the effects produced by alcohol and/or other drugs, cannot see, in the using brain state, how they hurt me; therefore, I do not see the benefit of abstaining or asking for help.



In Summary

A healthy brain is an absolute necessity for a happy, meaningful, and purposeful life. Chronic use of intoxicants such as: alcohol, cocaine, heroin, meth, OxyContin, marijuana and many others, regardless of whether they are legal or illegal can lead to serious brain impairment, even damage, dysfunction and greatly diminished brain functions. Fortunately, research shows that the human brain is capable of being restored or even improved in function in Recovery with the right approaches and exercises during abstinence. In upcoming posters, we will offer some ideas about how to improve your brain healing and recovery, to support abstinence from intoxicants. To learn more, please consult our companion book: "Brain-Healing First Aid: How to Recover My Brain's Abilities during Addiction Treatment"



10 "Do's" to Foster Brain Recovery Starting at Initial Abstinence

1 Commit to abstinence from intoxicants



1. **Avoid** places where you used/drank. Any drug-related cue can activate processes in your brain that are harmful for its health.
2. **Break** relationships with all using partners. Your brain needs new healthy friends to be able to recover.
3. **Affirm** commitment to "total abstinence" from any drug, including alcohol, legal or illegal. Your brain is very vulnerable to any intoxicant during recovery. Take care of it responsibly.

2 Be patient and hopeful

1. **Treat** your brain as you would any other injured part of your body that needs extended rest and healing for a period of time to experience recovery.
2. **Rely** upon the example of other injuries healing over time, accept that you will achieve your brain health gradually.
3. **Gather** with and call upon people in successful recovery to benefit from their experience, strength, and hope.



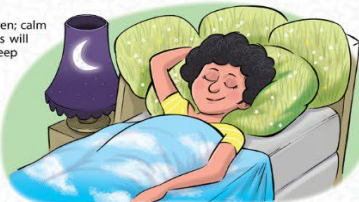
3 Be calm and relaxed



1. **Not unlike** other bodily injuries, your brain needs sufficient time to become peaceful and calm to experience healing.
2. **Stress** is your brain's worst enemy and exposure to heightened stress hampers the recovery process.
3. **Avoid** when possible, people, places, events and other things that tend to raise your stress level. You can start to gradually and slowly expose yourself to the normal life stressors after first few months of recovery under supervision of your counsellors and therapists.

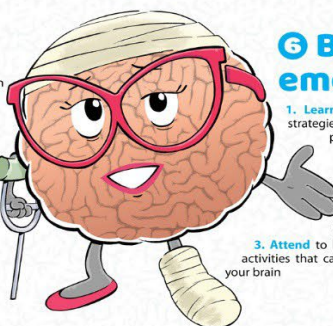
4 Be a healthy sleeper

1. **Your brain** needs sufficient (but not too much) sleep at night and periods of daytime rest to recharge.
2. **Turn** your bedroom in to a sleep haven: calm and dark with proper temperature. This will help your brain to take advantage of sleep as much as possible for its recovery.
3. **Commit** to and maintain a regular, healthy and helpful sleep schedule. Fixed daily schedule for sleep will help your brain to be rested and accessible when you need it.



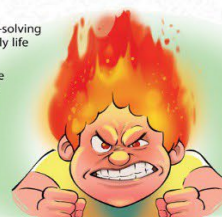
5 Be a healthy foodie

1. **Include** more fruit (especially berries) and dark green leafy vegetables in your diet. Their natural antioxidants and vitamins will help your brain to recover injured and inflamed areas.
2. **Eats lots of** oily fish (salmon and tuna) and eggs. Their micronutrients will provide your brain with materials to restore its disturbed structures.
3. **Reduce** salt intake and make intentional efforts to lower Cholesterol.



6 Be in tune with your emotions

1. **Learn and practice** problem-solving strategies in order to deal with daily life problems.
2. **Gain** skills to practice emotional awareness in order to identify and separate various emotional states and feelings.
3. **Attend** to leisure and recreation activities that can soothe and restore your brain.



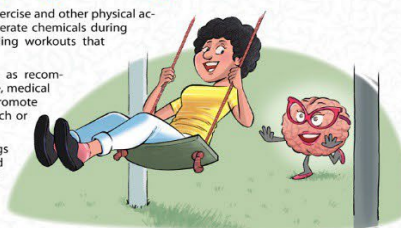
7 Be more socially active



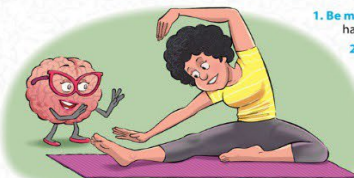
1. **Get involved** with other people who are living in recovery successfully.
2. **Be committed** to engage in 12 step or other mutual support groups regularly.
3. **Be willing** to focus your relationships with people, including family members, who encourage and support your abstinence and recovery.

8 Be more physically active

1. **Try** to make time for regular exercise and other physical activities. Your brain and body generate chemicals during rigorous physical activity, including workouts that promote your brain recovery.
2. **Engage** in aerobic exercises, as recommended for someone of your age, medical condition, build, and gender to promote holistic health but, avoid too much or too intensive exercise.
3. **Try** exercising in group-settings for support, encouragement and meet the social needs of your healing brain.



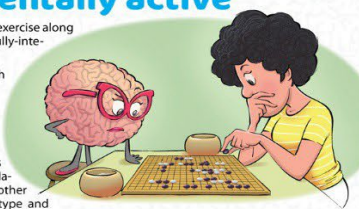
9 Be a healthy friend to yourself



1. **Be mindful** of your emotions, thoughts and behaviors as often and intentionally as possible.
2. **Be willing** to practice yoga or attend any type of meditation classes. Practice meditation exercise as part of a daily program to help your brain progress in recovery.
3. **Be willing** to practice mindfulness exercises in daily tasks, such as eating, walking, and cleaning house/yard work, etc. Experiencing normal pleasures from normally pleasurable tasks is a staple of recovery.

10 Be more mentally active

1. **Honor** the fact that your brain needs exercise along with your body to be able to regain its fully-integrated functions.
2. **Be willing** to do brain exercises which are systematically designed for improvement of brain functions (see our next poster).
3. **Progress gradually** into difficult and challenging levels of brain exercise, much like you might increase the weights in gym exercises. Follow the recommendations of a counselor, recovery coach or other helping professional in regard to the type and level of mental exercises you practice.



In Summary

Your brain during early abstinence is like a broken hand. It needs your active support to be able to recover properly. After the initial weeks of abstinence, your brain will need active rehabilitation exercise to start to recover its own abilities over the time. The brain healing takes time but it is guaranteed if you pay enough time and attention to it. You can have more details about the brain exercises in our next poster or in our book "Brain-Healing First Aid: How to Recover My Brain's Abilities during Addiction Treatment".

Authors: Hamed Ekhtari, Tara Rezapour, Brad Collins, Martin Paulus; Illustrator: Naem Tadayon; Graphist: Mohsen Farhadi



Scan the QR code above with your smartphone to get a free PDF version of the book.

10 Series of **Brain Exercises** for **Brain Recovery** during **Abstinence**

① Attention ② Memory



1. Do Word Exercises: Practice reverse spelling during daily conversation and spell the words you hear backward in your mind. Ex: Apple could be elppa in your "Brain language"

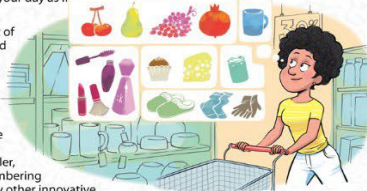
2. Be Your "Present-Moment" Attention Coach: You can practice controlling your attention and lessen your brain's tendency to wander during important tasks. Intentional, gentle and internal messages such as "focus on the task at hand" or "come back to the present moment" can become a habit to bring you back into focus.

3. Train Your Brain to be Flexible: Try to shift between two or more brain tasks as a daily exercise. Ex: Practice a Sudoku puzzle for 10 min and then shift to solving a crossword for 10 min and then return to the Sudoku again.

1. Journal in Your Brain Book: Document important events that influenced your day every night. You can visualize and observe the events of your day as if watching a play.

2. Play "Memory Games": Prepare a list of information such as a grocery list or word list every day and try to memorize it throughout the day. Commit a snapshot of the list to memory for ready-access, so new words will be available when you need them.

3. Reduce "Brain Clutter": Try to reduce the load of information taking up brain-space by economizing strands into smaller, associated "chunks". Ex: Instead of remembering 140593251, simplify to 140-593-251. Any other innovative ways to organize and chunk information will help your memory.



③ Decisions & Control ④ Movement & Speech

1. Set Daily Goals: Set at least one goal every day and strive to achieve it by the end of that day. Small goals such as saving a few minutes by walking 1/2 a mile, to start are worthwhile. You can gradually set 7 goals for each week and achieve them.



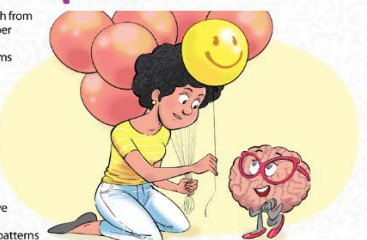
2. Track Your Money: Try to monitor your daily money spending, even when it is very low, with writing and calculating on paper. Being a good personal money manager will help you to take over control in other aspects of your life.

3. Practice Patience: Whenever you feel overwhelmed by impulses and emotions to make a decision or take an action: stop, take a deep breath, and close your eyes. Then starting from 10, count up to 20 slowly.

1. Practice Paraphrasing: Select a paragraph from recovery literature, a magazine or a newspaper and read it mindfully. Then rewrite the paragraph in your own words, using synonyms and alternative descriptions.

2. Enjoy the "Artist in You": Grab a coloring book and allow yourself to get colorfully creative! Try to color without going outside the confines of the patterns.

3. Improve Dexterity: Don Henley, famed drummer for the Eagles, said he first began drumming by tapping on his school books and desk. Sit and intentionally strike drum beats, varied and different paced to improve and stimulate manual dexterity. Enjoy little competitions with yourself around speed, patterns and precision.



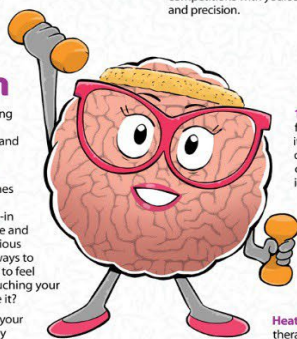
⑤ Brain-Body Connection

1. Practice Body-Presence: Focus on your body while you are exercising, practicing yoga, sitting in meditation, etc. instead of listening to the music. Experience the communication created between your brain and body and feelings associated with it.



2. Observe Your Heart Rate: Check your pulse several times during different activities throughout the day. Tune-in to the message your pulse and heart rate will offer at various conditions. Try different ways to check your pulse. Even try to feel your heart beat without touching your external body? Can you sense it?

3. Practice Mindfulness: Observe your environment and your body with curiosity and pay attention to sounds around you as if it is your first time to experience them.



⑥ Arousal and Sleep

1. Create a Sleep Haven: Prepare your bedroom for a relaxing and soothing sleep by making it dark and quiet. Turn your electronic devices to silent and offer yourself comforting supports, such as an ideal pillow.

2. Pamper Yourself
Occasionally: Utilize spa activities such as massage, sauna, hot tub, manicure, pedicure, etc. whenever possible. You can even use your home bathtub as your personal spa.

3. Enjoy the Benefits of Warmth/Heat: Take a warm shower to ease tension in your muscles. Set your home water on a therapeutic temperature to relax your joints and muscles.



⑦ Feeling Bad ⑧ Feeling Good

1. Use Positive Language: Replace negative words with positive ones. Use positive affirmations such as: "Look how far I have come" as opposed to: "I am not progressing fast enough."

2. Live in Gratitude: Consistently acknowledge things for which you are grateful. To your recovery friends, to your family, to yourself and to your spiritual life. Make a list of areas and things in your life for which you are grateful.

3. Volunteer for Charity Work and Express Your Spiritual Generosity: Help other people even if it seems small. Volunteering or charity work is a great opportunity to be of service to others.



1. Be a Member of the Happiness Club: Try to laugh and share humor with other people. Spend your leisure time watching comedy shows with your family and offer some funny stories and tell some jokes. Turn on your sense of humor and enjoy your life.

2. Be a "Hobbyist": Choose joyful hobbies that help you relax and feel joyful. Ex: Swimming, arts/crafts, cooking, golf or gardening could enhance your recovery and brain healing.

3. Detox Your Brain from Negative Memories by Making New Positive Ones: Try new fun experiences and form happy memories. You can visit new places or learn new exercises associated with joy and pleasure without using alcohol or any other drugs.



⑨ Social Cognition ⑩ Awareness & Insight

1. Use Compassion and Understanding: In every meeting, place yourself in other people shoes, try to view the world from their perspective and consider their circumstances.

2. Allow Yourself to be Transparent: Express your thoughts, fears, and emotions to your recovery friends or family members, when safe to do so whenever you feel out-of-sorts or tense. Use a journal or a notebook to write about emotions you experienced that day.

3. Be a Voice Analyzer: Listen to your partner's expressions and tone of voice deeply during conversations and try to understand by writing about his/her emotions from voice inflections and body language.



1. Observe Your Brain Processes: You can monitor what is happening inside your brain and ask yourself such questions as "What type of process is my brain engaged in right now?" "What brain processes encourage me to feel certain emotions such as glad, sad, or mad?"

2. Attend to Your Posture: Use your brain power to monitor your posture moment by moment especially when you are in the middle of walking, typing or watching TV.

3. Live Weight-Conscious: If your body weight has been a health risk for you, find out what your ideal BMI is. Find brain processes that help you reach your food intake and body weight goals.



In Summary

Much like your body, your brain needs exercise on a regular and progressively more challenging basis. Our brain needs exercise to stay sharp and encourage resiliency to handle the day-to-day rigors of life. A healing, addicted brain needs even more attention, nurturing and care. In this third educational poster, we introduce some of the exercises which can be done easily, almost everywhere, anytime without any special equipment. So, please enjoy the offerings of our poster series and our book "Brain-Healing First Aid...": and their recommendations for healing.

Authors: Hamed Ekhtiari, Tara Rezapour, Brad Collins, Martin Paulus; Illustrator: Naeem Tadayon; Graphist: Mohsen Farhadi



RSG 10 – Onward and Upward: Career/School/Parenting

The focus of recovery changes and expands over time. The early goals may be:

- Not using stimulants for a day, a weekend, a week, a month, etc.
- Working on healthy eating and exercising.
- Attending all of your treatment appointments.
- Shedding relationships with people who use drugs and establishing a new group of sober friends.

When you make changes in your life that establish a break from drug use, you reach a new starting point in recovery. Goals need to be more focused on personal growth and a new lifestyle beyond just being drug-free.

These goals may be:

- Returning to school or a training program (for example, the trades, computers, or a high school or college degree).
- Applying for jobs and returning to work.
- Contributing financially to your household and family.
- Being a full-time parent and being responsible for children.

These goals are not only a way to move farther away from the drug use life but bring a feeling of self-esteem. It puts you in a world where you are more than simply drug-free, but a new and positive place where you can experience the satisfaction of being a contributing member of society.

What are some things you could do to achieve these “bigger picture” goals?

Goal _____ When _____

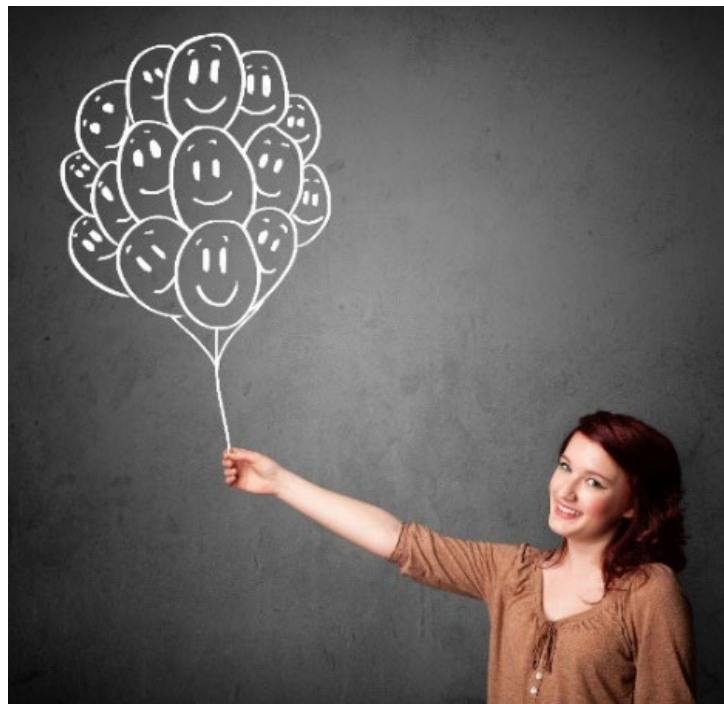
Initial steps _____

Goal _____ When _____

Initial steps _____

Goal _____ When _____

Initial steps _____



RSG 11 – Signs of Stress



Stress is what a person experiences as the result of difficult or upsetting events, particularly those which continue for a period of time. Stress can be a big trigger for meth/cocaine use.

Sometimes we are unaware that we are stressed until we recognize the physical symptoms. Check off any of the following problems you have experienced in the past 30 days:

- _____ 1. Sleep problems
 - a. Difficulty falling asleep
 - b. Waking up off and on during the night
 - c. Nightmares
 - d. Waking up early and being unable to fall back to sleep
- _____ 2. Headaches
- _____ 3. Stomach problems
- _____ 4. Chronic Illness

- _____ 5. Fatigue
- _____ 6. Moodiness
- _____ 7. Irritability
- _____ 8. Difficulty concentrating
- _____ 9. General dissatisfaction with life
- _____ 10. Feeling overwhelmed

By becoming more aware of stress and learning ways to cope, you can further ensure your continuing recovery and improve your physical and mental health.

Stress, like cravings, can often be managed by using specific grounding techniques, such as deep breathing, meditation, and exercise.

You can practice grounding exercises with your therapist to help you reduce the impact that stress has on your body and behaviors.

What are some ways that you have managed stress in the past?

RSG 12 – Drug use Prevention

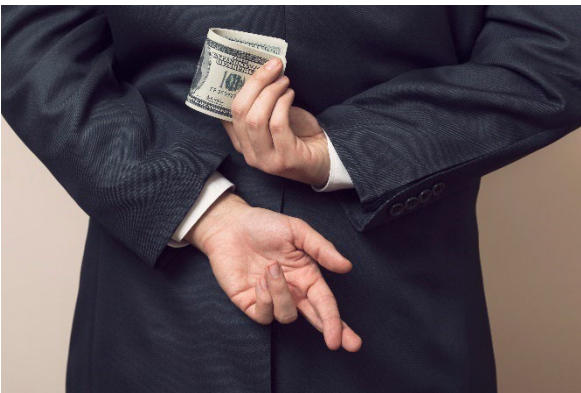
Why is drug use prevention important?

Recovery is more than not using drugs/alcohol. The first step in treatment is stopping drug/alcohol use. The next step is not starting again. This is very important and the process for doing it is called DRUG USE PREVENTION.

What is relapse?

Relapse is going back to drug/alcohol use and to all the behaviors and patterns that go with that. Often the behaviors and patterns return before the actual drug/alcohol use. Learning to recognize movement towards drug use can help the recovering person stop the process before actual drug/alcohol use begins.

What is Substance use Behavior?



The things people do as part of using drugs or alcohol are called “using behaviors.” Often these are things the individual does to get drugs or alcohol, to cover-up drinking/using or as part of the use. Lying, stealing, being unreliable, and acting compulsively are types of these behaviors. Describe yours:

What is Emotional Building?



Feelings that don't seem to go away and just keep getting stronger cause emotional building. Sometimes the feelings seem unbearable. The kinds of feelings that can build are boredom, anxiety, sexual frustration, irritability, and depression. Are any of these familiar to you now or in the past?

What is Drug use Justification?

In AA, these kinds of thoughts are called "stinking thinking." They are thoughts that make using or drinking seem O.K. Some examples are, "I can handle just one drink", "If they think I'm using, I might as well", or "I have worked hard. I need a break." What might your brain say to you?

The important step is to **TAKE ACTION** as soon as you recognize the danger signs. Which actions might work for you?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call your therapist | <input type="checkbox"/> Do something you enjoy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call a sober friend | <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to a family member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a support meeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to your spouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise | <input type="checkbox"/> Read the Bible/Prayer |

What other actions might work for you?



Individual Coaching Session (ICS) Worksheets



ICS A – Drug Use Analysis and Chart

When does a return to drug use begin?

If drug use happens, it is important to analyze the events surrounding it. By doing this, you can make necessary changes to avoid future drug use.

Prior to the actual substance use there are usually signs and changes in your behavior days or even weeks ahead of the drug use.

Use the drug use analysis chart to help zero in on the causes of drug use in the past, more recently, or potentially in the future.

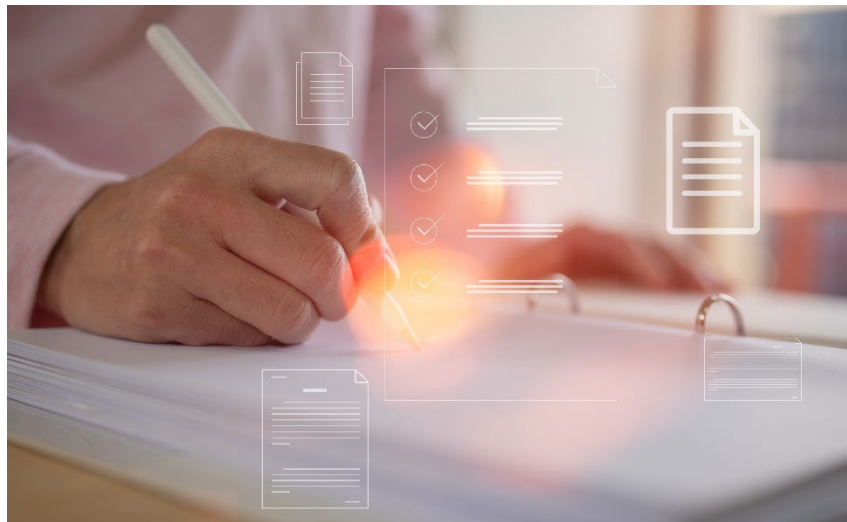
Look at the events over the 1 – 4-week period preceding drug use. Note any change or stressor even if it might not seem relevant. Areas to look at are:

1. **Work** – significant events or a change in status relative to a job.
2. **Personal** – events or a change in the status of relationships with family/friends as well as other situations unrelated to any other category.
3. **Treatment** – events or a change in status of the regular treatment plans as well as transition from one phase of treatment to another.
4. **Drug/Alcohol-Related Behaviors** – behaviors directly related to drug and alcohol consumption (e.g., drinking, going to bars, visiting a dealer or seeing someone who uses)
5. **Behavior Patterns** – new or resumed behaviors that are part of addiction (e.g., lying, stealing, behaving compulsively, isolating, etc.)

6. **Drug Use Cognitions** - thoughts that seem to justify drug use, even if they were brief and seemed minor. Being aware at any point that a return to drug use might be in progress. Fantasies about using or the behaviors above that go with using. Dreams about drugs and drug use.

7. **Health Habits Status** - events or a change in status or routine of normal eating, sleeping, exercise, or grooming behaviors. Illness or injuries are particularly pertinent.

It is not likely that there will be significant events in every single category. It is important to get a picture of overall vulnerability before the actual drug use occurred.



Drug Use Analysis Chart

Name: _____

Date of Drug Use: _____

An episode of drug use does not begin when drug ingestion occurs. Frequently there are pre-use events that occur, which are indicative of a return to drug use. Identifying your individual pre-use patterns will allow you to interrupt the process of a return to drug use. Using the chart below, note events occurring during the week immediately preceding the drug use being analyzed.

WORK EVENTS	PERSONAL EVENTS	TREATMENT	DRUG/ RELATED BEHAVIORS	BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS	DRUG USE THOUGHTS	HEALTH HABITS STATUS

THOUGHTS OR FEELINGS RELATIVE TO ABOVE EVENTS

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ICS 1 – Functional Analysis: The Five Ws



- Your meth/cocaine use isn't random. It doesn't happen accidentally.
- If you have been using stimulants on a regular basis, then there are probably some patterns to your use (e.g., places, times of day, with certain people).
- If you understand how methamphetamine/cocaine are entangled in your life, then you can work on reducing or eliminating your use.

To gain an understanding of how drug use has become involved in your life, it is useful to do understand “The five Ws.”

The Five Ws

- **When:** The time periods when you use stimulants
- **Where:** The places where you use and buy stimulants
- **Why:** The external cues and internal emotional states that trigger craving and use of stimulants (why)
- **Who:** The people who you use drugs with or the people who you buy drugs from.
- **What:** What effects do you experience (good and bad) when you use stimulants (what happened)

When are the days of the week/ times of day that you most often use cocaine or methamphetamine:

Where are the places you most often use and buy meth/cocaine:

Why does use happen? What are the events or things around you or the emotional feelings (triggers) that you have that often occur right before you buy and use meth/cocaine:

Who are the people you frequently use stimulants with, or buy stimulants from?

What happens when you use methamphetamine/cocaine? Good and Bad.

ICS 2– Exercise and Recovery



- People who exercise on a regular basis in stimulant treatment do better than those who don't.
- Research has been done that shows exercise can reduce anxiety, depression, weight gain and help reduce craving.
- Any exercise that increases heart rate (aerobic) and can be done for 20 minutes, 3 times per week can make a huge benefit on the health and mental health of people recovering from stimulant dependence.
- Exercise provides a new set of behaviors to use your time in a non-drug related activity.

Making a plan for exercise, one day at a time, is a really valuable way to increase your chances of success in stimulant recovery.

You can do simple things alone without expense or equipment (e.g., jogging, sit-ups, etc.) or there are group activities that can provide you with support and new non-drug-using friends (yoga, joining a gym, aerobics classes). In addition, there are also many apps for smart phones, tablets, and computers that you can use to support your exercise efforts.

1. What are some exercises that you are willing to add to your recovery plan?

2. List any medical or physical problems that you should speak with your physician about that could be obstacles to exercise?

3. Do you exercise now? ____ Have you exercised in the past? ____
Describe your exercise experiences:

4. What exercise plan would work for you? Think about:

- Is there someone you could exercise with?
- Do you have any equipment (e.g., a bike, hand weights, basketball)?
- When could you block out a half hour for exercise? 3 x week?
- What exercise program has worked for you in the past?
- What kinds of things do you like to do physically?

Start slowly, don't overdo it, some is better than none.

Be consistent-do a little but do it consistently.

ICS 3 – Drug Refusal Skills

Refusing Methamphetamine and Cocaine

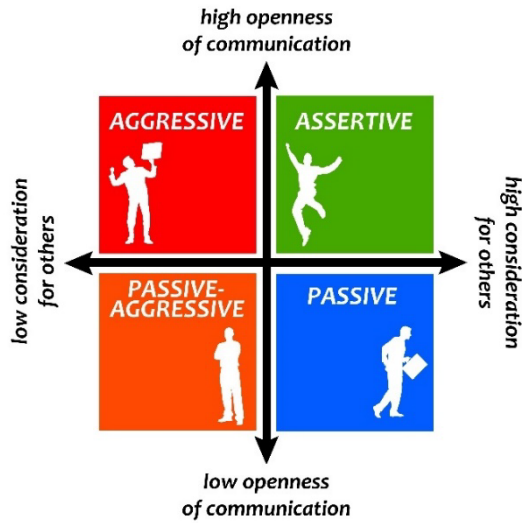
Some Important Things to Know:

- People who offer you meth/cocaine are not thinking of your best interests. Once you have decided to reduce or stop use of meth/cocaine, anyone (friend or not) who offers you drugs is a danger to you. Offers to use have to be refused – politely, if possible, but firmly.
 - Saying “NO” is the first and most important part of your refusal response. There are different ways of saying “NO” for different situations. It is important to feel comfortable with how to say “NO.” You have to develop your own style.
 - Think of a time you had difficulty refusing meth/cocaine? Choose a specific situation, including specific people, time of day, place and the activity.
-

COMPONENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE REFUSAL

- “No” should be the first thing you say.
 - Tell the person to stop asking if you want to use drugs.
 - Use appropriate body language.
 - Make good eye contact; look directly at the person when you answer.
 - Your expression and tone should clearly indicate that you are serious.
- Discuss how you might say “NO” to an offer in the future.
-
-

ICS 4 –Assertiveness



What is assertiveness?

Assertiveness means to behave in a confident, forceful, yet respectful way. Being assertive helps you to stand up for yourself and stick to your beliefs.

Being effectively assertive is important if you tend to be either too passive or too aggressive in social situations.

What is assertive behavior?

- Assertive behavior enables you to express your feelings honestly.
- Assertive behavior allows you to achieve your personal goals.
- Assertive behavior respects the feelings of others.

What is passive behavior?

Do you deny yourself or your rights?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes
Do you avoid expressing feelings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes
Do you feel hurt and anxious?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes
Do you allow others to choose for you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes
Do you fail to achieve your goals?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes

What is aggressive behavior?

Do you accomplish goals without concern of bad feelings and resentment in others?	___ Yes ___ No ___ Sometimes
Do you express feelings and promote yourself, but usually hurt others in the process?	___ Yes ___ No ___ Sometimes
Do you minimize others' worth and put them down?	___ Yes ___ No ___ Sometimes
Do you make choices for others, and deny them their rights?	___ Yes ___ No ___ Sometimes

- **Passive:** You are hurt by not getting what you want.
- **Aggressive:** The other person is hurt and may seek revenge.
- **Assertive:** Neither person is hurt, and both get what they want.

Some tips on how to be assertive. Rate yourself on each item from 0 to 10: 0 meaning "I need to work on this" 10 meaning "I'm as good as I can be with this."

- I clearly express my needs (what you want). Rating: _____
- I use "I" statements when expressing my feelings or needs. (For example, you could say "I am angry because I feel like nobody cares about my feelings," instead of "You make me feel awful.") Rating: _____
- I speak clearly and firmly (Your message should be said with authority but not hostility. You want to convey that you mean business but are respectful). Rating: _____
- I make good eye contact when speaking. I look at the other person when I speak and when I listen. (Again, this promotes the impression that you are serious about your message). Rating: _____
- My body gestures and facial expressions are consistent with my message. (For example, don't smile if you are angry.) Rating: _____

ICS 5 – Recovery Checklist

Reducing your use of meth/cocaine requires a lot of hard work and a great deal of commitment. It is necessary to change old behaviors and replace them with new behaviors.

Check all the things that you do (or have done) since entering treatment:

- Schedule on a daily basis
- Avoid triggers (when possible)
- Visit physician for check-up
- Use thought-stopping for cravings
- Eliminate all paraphernalia
- Avoid individuals who use cocaine and meth
- Attend treatment groups
- Attend 12-Step/other support meetings
- Avoid bars and clubs
- Stop using alcohol
- Reduce or discontinue tobacco use (ask your therapist for help)
- Get a sponsor or sober support
- Stop using all drugs
- Exercise every day

_____ Pay financial obligations promptly

_____ Discuss your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors honestly with your
Therapist

_____ Avoid triggering websites

_____ Delete triggering contacts from your phone/computer

Which of the above is easiest for you to do?

Which of the above takes the most effort for you to do?

Which have you not done yet? What is keeping you from doing this?

ICS 6 – Motivation for Recovery

Ask any group of people just starting into recovery WHY they want to stop using right now and you will get many different answers:

- "I was arrested and it's either this or jail."
- "My wife says if I don't stop, we are finished."
- "Last time I used I thought I was going to die; I know I will if I use again."
- "They are going to take the children from us unless we stop."
- "I've been using for 20 years now; it's time to change."

The reasons people stop using have little bearing on whether they will be able to successfully lead a drug-free life.



What does make a difference is whether they can stay drug-free long enough to appreciate the benefits of a different lifestyle. Life becomes less complicated and more enjoyable. When debts are not overwhelming, when relationships are rewarding, when work is going well, and health is good, the recovering person WANTS to stay drug free.

**FEAR WILL GET SOMEONE INTO TREATMENT BUT
FEAR ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM IN RECOVERY.**

1. List some of the specific reasons you first entered treatment. (e.g., medical problems, family pressure, job problems, depression, etc.):

2. List some of the specific reasons you are continuing to work on the recovery process today:

3. Do you feel that your reasons for stopping drug use initially are the same as your reasons for staying off drugs today? Explain why or why not.

ICS 7 – Managing Anger

Anger often leads people to use meth/cocaine.



Frequently, anger slowly builds on itself as you may constantly think about the people and events that anger you. Sometimes it seems like the issues causing the anger are the only important things in life. Often, a sense of victimization accompanies the anger.

Do you ever think these things?

- “Why do I get all the bad breaks?”
- “How come they don’t understand my needs?”
- “Why won’t they just do what I want them to do?”

1. Does any of this seem familiar to you? _____ Explain.

2. How do you recognize when you are angry? Does your behavior change? For example, pacing, clenching your jaw, feeling restless? How or where do you feel or notice it?

3. How do you express anger?

- Do you hold it in and eventually explode?

- Do you become sarcastic or passive-aggressive?

Consider these methods that focus on positive ways to deal with anger:

- Talk to the person with whom you are angry (unless this is dangerous or might make the situation worse).
- Talk to a therapist, a Twelve Step sponsor, or another trusted, rational person who can give you guidance.
- Talk about the anger in a Twelve Step or community support group meeting.
- Don't lose sight of where you are in your recovery.
- Write about your feelings of anger.
- Take a break to change your frame of mind.
- Exercise.
- Other (Remember things that might have worked for you in the past):

- Which of these would you try?

ICS 8 – Social/Recreational Behavior



This session focuses on developing interest and participation in recreational and social activities that are pleasurable and do not involve drug use.

Why this is important?

Social and recreational activities provide a source of enjoyment that can be looked forward to after a stressful day. They are a way to decrease boredom and to feel physically healthy. They are a way to develop a skill that makes you feel good about yourself, and an opportunity to be with new people and to develop friendships.

These activities can play a very important part in becoming and staying drug free.

List Activities and People

The first step is to develop a list of activities that you are interested in pursuing.

- What are some [current activities](#) you enjoy that do not involve drugs?

- What are some non-drug related activities you've enjoyed [in the past](#)?

- What are some activities you have [always wanted to do](#), but have never done?

- Of these activities which are the [most realistic](#) with regard to: your amount of interest, cost, others' involvement, time commitment, your likelihood of engaging in the activity?

- List some [non-drug-using people](#) who might participate in these activities with you?

Set Goals

- What activities could you take part in over the next week?

- Who could take part in these activities with you?

ICS 9 – Stimulants and Sex - A Natural Connection

Meth/cocaine use affects the same part of the brain that controls both sexual behavior and sexual pleasure. Were any of these true for you?

In the Beginning

Stimulants increased sexual pleasure	___ yes ___ no
Stimulants helped sex last longer	___ yes ___ no
Stimulants allowed me to do things I might not otherwise do	___ yes ___ no
Stimulants helped me meet people	___ yes ___ no
Stimulants made me less anxious in new sexual encounters	___ yes ___ no
Stimulants added excitement to an existing relationship	___ yes ___ no

It is not unusual for people to experience some of the above effects from stimulant use in the beginning. As the addiction gets worse, less pleasant things often begin to happen. Did you experience any of the following?

Near the End

Continued ability to prolong sexual activity with decrease in pleasure from the experience	___ yes ___ no
Increased, more unusual sex (looking for pleasure)	___ yes ___ no
Thinking about sex and drugs became more exciting than the real thing	___ yes ___ no
Difficulty achieving erection (males) or orgasm (females)	___ yes ___ no
Using stimulants replaced sex	___ yes ___ no

Many people notice that thinking/fantasizing about sex is a trigger for drug use.

Are you getting triggered from any of the following?

Porn: Looking at porn internet sites or cruising through areas of prostitution can result in arousal and then cravings. It is difficult to fight this 1-2 punch from your addicted brain.

Bars/Clubs: Many people miss the social scene that goes along with using and try to return to the same places where stimulants and sex were used together. A menu for drug use.

Extra-relationship Sex: Forbidden sex can be a trigger during recovery. One of the reasons for this is that such activity may involve lying, cheating, etc. All of these are addictive behaviors.

Dysfunction: It takes a while after stopping drug or alcohol use to experience pleasurable, normal sex again. There are times it is not unusual to lose all interest in sex. For some people it's difficult not to get anxious about this. Over time, with abstinence, normal sexual functioning will return. Some people may be faced with drug-free sex for the first time since adolescence – or ever! It's important not to rush back to sex. The triggering will occur less often and with less power over time. Let your triggers (or the lack of them) be your guide for your return to sexuality.

In what ways does your sexual functioning interact with your meth/cocaine use?

ICS 10 – Recovery Checklist

Reducing your use of meth/cocaine requires a lot of hard work and a great deal of commitment. It is necessary to change many old behaviors and replace them with new behaviors.

Check all the things that you do (or have done) since entering treatment:

- Schedule on a daily basis
- Avoid triggers (when possible)
- Visit physician for check-up
- Use thought-stopping for cravings
- Eliminate all paraphernalia
- Avoid individuals who use meth and cocaine
- Attend treatment groups
- Attend 12-Step/other support meetings
- Avoid bars and clubs
- Stop using alcohol
- Get a sponsor or sober support
- Reduce or discontinue tobacco use (ask your therapist for help)
- Exercise every day
- Pay financial obligations promptly

_____ Discuss your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors openly with your therapist

_____ Avoid triggering websites

_____ Delete triggering contacts from your phone/computer

Which of these is the easiest for you to do?

Which of the above takes the most effort for you to do?

Which have you not done yet? Why not?

ICS 11 – Relationship Scale

This scale is intended to estimate your current feelings about your relationship in each of the 10 areas listed below. Ask yourself the following question as you rate each area:

How satisfied am I with my partner today in this area? Then circle the number that applies.

Numbers toward the left indicate some degree of dissatisfaction: numbers toward the right reflect some degree of satisfaction. By using the proper number, you can show just how you feel with each relationship area.

Remember: You are indicating your feelings for today. Also do not let your feelings in one area influence your rating in another area.



**Completely
dissatisfied**

**Completely
satisfied**

Household Responsibilities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rearing of Children	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Social Activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Money	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communication	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sex and Affection	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Academic/Occupational Progress	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Personal Independence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Partner's Independence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
General Happiness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

ICS 11a – Examples of Relationship-Related Activities

Social Activities

- Going together to:
 - the movies
 - out to dinner
- Visiting friends, going for walks
- Participating in or watching sports

Rearing of Children

- Preparing their meals
- Bathing/dressing the children
- Disciplining the children
- Watching the children
- Playing with the children
- Helping with homework

Money

- Paying bills
- Budgeting money
- Buying/receiving presents
- Saving too much or too little

Communication

- Planned discussion periods
- Frequent discussion periods'
- Frequent arguments
- Using tactful statements
- Misinterpreting things said
- Solving problems through

Academic/Occupational Progress

- Spends too much or too little time on it
- Too much procrastination
- Constant complaining about job
- Poor job location

Personal Independence

- Has day or night off alone
- Allowed to drive by myself
- Allowed to learn to drive
- Attends social events alone
- Feels free to ask partner's advice
- Can make decisions w/o

Partner's Independence

- Partner relies on you to make household decisions
- Partner goes out without you
- Partner will not go out without you
- Partner is too possessive
- Partner is not possessive enough
- Partner lacks friends
- Partner has no personal interests
- Partner does not drive

ICS 12 – Continuing Care Plan

Chronic health problems require ongoing attention. The Continuing Care group provides a weekly opportunity to help maintain the progress you've made. It is important to begin the Continuing Care group right away. Taking a "vacation" from treatment often results in the end of care.

What to expect from the group:

- [It is a drug use prevention group.](#) Every group of recovering people is a drug use prevention group. The group fortifies your new, healthy lifestyle and can help get you back on track if you stray from your plan.
- [It is a support group.](#) People who are in recovery for stimulant use have an invaluable understanding and empathy for each other. The people in the group provide support for progress and help during rough times.
- [It is a place to review the status of your continuing care plan.](#) The Mooring Lines handout will be reviewed regularly with attention to changes in behavior that may reflect some slippage.

Other plans:

- Are you attending or planning to attend 12-Step or other community support groups? If so, which ones, where, and when?

- Are you attending or planning to attend counseling for personal or relationship issues? If so, where and when?

- What are your regular social/recreational healthy activities? How often do you take part in these?

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