

STAND OUT

THROW IT OUT.

THE

SAY

ON

STIMULANTS

Stimulant drugs create an increase of alertness, attention, and energy for the consumer. Used correctly, these medications can help to effectively treat conditions like ADHD or narcolepsy. Common prescription stimulants include dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine®), a dextroamphetamine-amphetamine combination product (Adderall®), and methylphenidate (Ritalin®, Concerta®).

Sometimes stimulants are misused because consumers believe it will improve their academic performance or memory, but any use of a drug that goes against the prescribed directions puts a user at risk for harmful health effects like heart problems, addiction, or psychosis.

The misuse of stimulants looks very similar to other prescription misuse. It includes any manipulation of the drug, ingesting a prescription dose that does not belong to the consumer, ignoring the prescription's directions for usage, or taking the substance just to experience the effects that it causes on the body.

"Prescription stimulants increase the activity of the brain chemicals dopamine and norepinephrine. Dopamine is involved in the reinforcement of rewarding behaviors. Norepinephrine affects blood vessels, blood pressure and heart rate, blood sugar, and breathing... At high doses, prescription stimulants can lead to a dangerously high body temperature, an irregular heartbeat, heart failure, and seizures."

National Institute on Drug Abuse

