

Drug Free School

STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF THE CONEMAUGH SCHOOL OF NURSING & ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

In compliance with Federal Regulations set forth by Drug Free Work Place Act of 1989, and the Drug Free School and Communities Amendment Public Law 101-226: which requires all institutions of higher learning to adopt and implement a program that prohibits, prevents, and educates pertaining to the illegal possession, distribution or use of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and faculty.

This document is prepared to disseminate information about drug and alcohol abuse, its prevention and the consequences related to use and abuse of such substances.

The substance abuse policy established by Conemaugh Health System requires all students and faculty to be physically and mentally fit, free of impaired behavior that adversely affects safety and performance. Conemaugh Health System prohibits the unlawful manufacturing, possession, use, or distribution of illicit drug and/or alcohol on its property by employees, students, volunteers, and contracted personnel. Anyone found to be in violation of these standings as set forth by the Substance Abuse Policy and Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace Policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or termination. A referral may be made for counseling or rehabilitation. Such action is independent of prosecution by local, state, and / or federal authorities.

In conjunction with the policies set forth by the legislatures and Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, Conemaugh School of Nursing and Allied Health Education Programs will inform students and faculty about the dangers involved with the use of illicit drugs and abuse of alcohol, the availability of student/faculty counseling and rehabilitation services/assistance programs, the penalties that may be imposed for the violation of laws and policies set forth and provide information on preventing drug and alcohol abuse.

Dangers Associated with the Use of Illicit Drugs and Alcohol

Dependence on drugs and alcohol is a serious public health problem. Dependency is prevalent in all regions of the country and transcends all ethnic and socio-economical groups. Most individuals who abuse a substance deny their dependency, resulting in conflict and family difficulties. Serious consequences to dependency include mental health illness including paranoid and depression, as well as physical illness including damage to the brain, central nervous system, heart, liver, and kidneys. All drugs and alcohol will affect how you act and will impair your judgment. The result is an undesirable, uncontrollable outcome of potentially permanent damage and possibly death. Provided is a chart describing drugs of abuse and effects. Also available is a DEA Resource Guide, Drugs of Abuse 2017 edition found at:

https://www.dea.gov/pr/multimedia-library/publications/drug_of_abuse.pdf

Preventing Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Preventing drug and alcohol abuse is a difficult task. A personal resolve to never begin using drugs is effective for some individuals, while “Just Say No” or simply being fearful of addiction and the associated problems are enough for others. Many factors are associated with an individual’s risk for drug abuse; protective factors can reduce this risk.

Drug and alcohol abuse can be prevented when protective factors are integrated into an individual’s life. Being involved in extracurricular activities such as exercise, shopping, playing sports or music, or volunteering in community service organizations can provide a healthy direction for an individual’s attention. Education is an effective defense to understanding the health risks. Personal effects as well as legal consequences can curtail temptation.

The key to success is a matter of understanding your strengths and weakness. An individual who possesses a strong self-esteem, who had parental involvement with clean, consistent enforcement of limitations have a strong balance of risk and protective factors.

To increase your self-esteem and assist you in remaining drug and alcohol free, surround yourself with positive, like minded friends, find activities that you enjoy and help you relax, discover a new interest, develop your talents, and learn positive coping mechanisms.

Potential Legal Sanctions

Dependency on illicit drugs and alcohol can lead to a life of complication, misfortune, and regrets. The illegal use or trafficking of such substances and their abuse has an effect on the individual as well as society.

Legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol include: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act #64 of April 14, 1972; Monetary fines ranging up to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment up to 50 years for violation of its provisions. Under PA Criminal Code Section 6307-6308; and 21 US codes 811, 844, 853, 881, 922; it is an offense if anyone “attempts to Purchase, Purchases, Consumes, Possesses, or Transports Illegal Substances.” Punished by provisions of the law. These sanctions are specific to the substances and amount, as well as the offense.