



NetCare Access is your connection to mental health and alcohol/drug addiction services in Franklin County.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, visit one of our crisis sites or call our 24-hour NetCare Access Crisis Hotline at (614) 276-C.A.R.E.

ACCESSING Information About Schizophrenia

What is schizophrenia?

Schizophrenia is a chronic, severe and disabling brain disease which is characterized by “psychosis”. Psychosis is a state of mental impairment marked by hallucinations (disturbances of sensory perception) and/or delusions (false yet strongly held personal beliefs that result from an inability to separate real from unreal experiences). Persons with schizophrenia may also have distorted perceptions of reality or disordered thinking.

Facts

- ④ Approximately 1 percent of the population develops schizophrenia during their lifetime.
- ④ More than 2 millions Americans suffer from the illness in a given year.
- ④ Schizophrenia affects both men and women equally, but it usually appears in the late teens or early twenties in men and not until the twenties or early thirties in women.
- ④ Schizophrenia is not split personality disorder.
- ④ Studies show that persons with schizophrenia are not prone to violence unless the person had a record of criminal violence before becoming ill or has a substance abuse problem.
- ④ People with schizophrenia have a higher rate of suicide than the general population. Approximately 10 percent of people with schizophrenia commit suicide.
- ④ People with close relatives with schizophrenia are more likely to develop the disorder than are people who have no relatives with the illness.

Signs and Symptoms

People with schizophrenia suffer terrifying symptoms such as:

- ④ hearing internal voices not heard by others
- ④ believing other people are reading their minds, controlling their thoughts or plotting to harm them
- ④ fear and withdrawal
- ④ disorganized speech and behavior which often frightens other people
- ④ feeling frightened, anxious and confused
- ④ decreased motivation and interest in/enjoyment of life

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Treatment

When treatment for schizophrenia is used regularly and as prescribed, the symptoms of the illness can usually be reduced and controlled, allowing people with the illness to improve enough to lead independent, satisfying lives. Treatment options include:

- ④ Antipsychotic medications
- ④ Psychosocial therapy
- ④ Rehabilitation
- ④ Individual psychotherapy
- ④ Family Education
- ④ Self-help groups

How to receive help

A person with schizophrenia can benefit from talking with a mental health professional, such as a psychologist, counselor, psychiatrist or social worker, who can assist in providing the individual and his or her family with additional approaches to treatment.

If you or someone you know has schizophrenia or is in a crisis, contact NetCare Access at (614) 276-C.A.R.E. Mental health assessments are provided at both of Netcare's crisis sites, located at 199 S. Central Avenue and 741 E. Broad Street, on a walk-in, first-come-first-served basis, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

NetCare Access provides 24-hour crisis intervention and assessment services to Franklin County residents experiencing a mental health or alcohol/drug crisis. For more information on Netcare's services, contact us at:

Netcare Corporation
199 S. Central Avenue
Columbus, OH 43223

Administrative line: (614) 274-9500
Adult Assessment West: (614) 278-0122
Adult Assessment East: (614) 278-0155
24-hour crisis hotline: (614) 276-C.A.R.E. (2273)

www.netcareaccess.org

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