

# **INTERACTION OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL AND MENTAL ILLNESS**

**(USE WITH Education and Coping Skills III:  
Interaction of Drugs/Alcohol and Mental Illness)**

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1. Neurotransmitters let your brain to function properly.
  2. In mental illness, there is an imbalance in the normal work of neurotransmitters. This leads to symptoms of mental illness.
  3. Medications for mental illness work to correct this imbalance. This leads to a decrease in symptoms of mental illness.
  4. Drugs and alcohol further disrupt neurotransmitter functioning. This messes up how your nerve cells send messages to one another.
  5. People with mental illness who use drugs and alcohol get a double whammy: neurotransmitters are altered from both the mental illness and the drug use. This makes symptoms of mental illness even worse.
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