

# **Adherence Barriers for Homeless and Substance-Using Patients**

1. Competing priorities
2. Lack of access to health care
3. Being drunk or high
4. Lack of stability; chaotic life circumstances
5. Distrust of authorities
6. Denial

# Adherence Barriers for Homeless and Substance-Using Patients (continued)

- 7. Blaming others for problems
- 8. Depression (“why bother?”); feeling overwhelmed by one’s circumstances
- 9. Additional side effects of TB medications when taken with alcohol or other substances
- 10. Others?

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# A Working Definition of Addiction

Addiction is characterized by:

- A strong urge to use mood-altering drugs
- Loss of control over use of these drugs
- Continued use despite negative consequences
- Possible genetic disposition
  
- Family and social problems due to use
- Past attempts to stop or control use
- Possibility of relapse after the addict stops

## Review Questions

1. What are three special adherence barriers faced by TB patients who are homeless or use substances?
2. What are two different community perceptions about why people are homeless?
3. What are two different community perceptions about why people use substances?
4. What are three ways to help patients who are homeless or use substances to complete their treatment?
5. List at least two community resources in your area that can help patients who are homeless or use substances to address their non-TB-related challenges.