

Annex 1

TYPES OF DRUG DEPENDENCE

Drug dependence of morphine type is described as a state arising from repeated administration of morphine, or an agent with morphine-like effects, on a periodic or continuous basis. Its characteristics include :

- (1) an overpowering desire or need to continue taking the drug and to obtain it by any means ; the need can be satisfied by the drug taken initially or by another with morphine-like properties ;
- (2) a tendency to increase the dose owing to the development of tolerance ;
- (3) a psychic dependence on the effects of the drug related to a subjective and individual appreciation of those effects ; and
- (4) a physical dependence on the effects of the drug requiring its presence for maintenance of homeostasis and resulting in a definite, characteristic, and self-limited abstinence syndrome when the drug is withdrawn.

The abstinence syndrome is the most characteristic and distinguishing feature of drug dependence of morphine type. It appears within a few hours of the last dose of drug taken, reaches peak intensity in 12 hours or more, and subsides spontaneously, most often within a week, the time course varying with the duration of action of the specific morphine-like agent involved. The abstinence syndrome may also be precipitated in a matter of minutes and made to take a more rapid time course by the administration of a specific antagonist while continuing the administration of the agent responsible for the dependence. The complex of symptoms which constitute the abstinence syndrome includes : yawning, lacrimation, rhinorrhoea, perspiration, mydriasis, tremor, gooseflesh, anorexia, anxiety, restlessness, nausea, emesis, diarrhoea, hot flushes, rise in body temperature, increase in respiratory rate and in systolic blood pressure, abdominal or other muscle cramps, and dehydration and loss of body-weight.

Drug dependence of barbiturate type is described as a state arising from repeated administration of a barbiturate, or an agent with barbiturate-like effect, on a continuous basis, generally in amounts exceeding therapeutic dose levels. Its characteristics include :

- (1) a strong desire or need to continue taking the drug ; the need can be satisfied by the drug taken initially or by another with barbiturate-like properties ;