

KNOW THE SIGNS

The NMI is accepting new Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) patients and providing telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Please call 856-566-7017** to leave a message for our Intake Coordinator. Your call will be returned during our normal business hours of 8 am to 4 pm. Appointments can also be requested through our patient portal: <https://sompations.rowan.edu/portal/default.aspx>

SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE

Overdose effects are dependent on the drug taken:

Central nervous system (CNS) depressants: shallow breathing, weak pulse, clammy skin, coma, death from respiratory arrest

Hallucinogens: psychotic features, agitation, delirium

Inhalants: marked CNS depression, loss of consciousness, stupor or coma, arrhythmia, sudden death

Marijuana: profound drowsiness, unsteady gait, vomiting, tachycardia, agitation, psychosis

Opioids: depressed level of consciousness, respiratory depression/arrest, cold/clammy skin, cyanosis (bluish skin), markedly constricted pupils (dilated if anoxic brain injury has occurred)

Stimulants: hyperthermia, tachycardia, hypertension, arrhythmia, agitation, hallucinations and other psychotic features, seizures, cardiovascular emergencies

In addition to these symptoms, other signs may include:

- Body temperature changes
- Skin color changes
- Fast, slowed, or irregular pulse
- Passing out or loss of consciousness
- Abnormal breathing

If you suspect that you or someone nearby is suffering from a drug or alcohol overdose, **call 911 immediately**. Do not leave the person alone; stay with them until medical professionals arrive. New Jersey has Good Samaritan laws that protect bystanders who voluntarily provide first aid or medical assistance and protect people from arrest and criminal prosecution in relation to reporting a possible drug overdose.

If you witness an overdose, and the person has passed out, they should be placed on their side just in case they vomit. This should help prevent any choking accidents, should it occur. The person should also not eat or drink anything. If friends know what substances were taken, they should report this to emergency responders so appropriate treatment can be given.