

Lifespan's Geriatric Addictions Service

(for those 55 and older)

“What difference does it make at his age if he drinks too much?”

“Let her drink, she's not hurting anyone!”

Lifespan provides information, guidance and services that help older adults take on both the challenges and opportunities of the second half of life.

Service Lines:

Eldercare Services

- CheckIt!, a full bill payer service
- In-home financial management assistance
- Consultation on long term care insurance and Medicare/Medicaid
- Guardianship
- Elder abuse prevention in 11 counties
- Scam intervention/prevention workshops
- Home modification (for fall prevention)
- Advocacy for residents of nursing homes
- Nursing home culture change project
- Geriatric addictions program
- Elder care management through Eldersource*
- Information and referral for older adult services
- Care management for persons with developmental disabilities
- Day care for persons with developmental disabilities
- FutureCare Planning for persons with disabilities**

Employment & Volunteerism

- Specialized counseling & job placement for displaced homemakers
- Subsidized job placement for income eligible older adults
- Volunteer placement for persons 55 and older in area non-profit agencies

Training & Education

- Workshops on aging issues
- PlanIt! pre-retirement seminars
- St. John Fisher Geriatric Certificate Program
- Elder Aware training

Wolk Older Adult Center at Lifespan Downtown

*a service of Lifespan and Catholic Family Center

** a service of Lifespan and Al Sigl Center

Se habla Español.

A Hidden Epidemic

Alcohol
Prescription drugs
Illegal drugs

Misuse among
older adults

Lifespan has new help
for a growing problem.

Lifespan is working to dispel the myth that it is not worth treating older adults for substance misuse.



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Older Adults and Substance Abuse

Substance abuse among adults 55 and older is a fast growing health problem. It is estimated that 17% of older adults misuse alcohol and prescription drugs.

The facts...

- Up to 75% of older adult emergency room visits could be alcohol or drug related.
- Up to 60% of hospitalized older adults are alcoholic.
- Up to 15% of older adults seeking any kind of medical treatment have alcohol-related problems.
- Annually, as many as 32,000 hip fractures are due to substance-induced falls.

Older adults often resist traditional alcohol and drug treatment. That is why Lifespan is offering a new way.

New Hope for a Growing Problem

What's Different about Lifespan's Geriatric Addictions Treatment?

Our service fills a gap between traditional on-site or in-patient treatment and the alternative—no treatment.

We provide:

- Comprehensive **in-home** evaluation.
- **In-home** substance abuse intervention, assessment, and linkage.
- Supportive counseling and education for families and caregivers.

When it is appropriate, we link clients to traditional chemical dependency programs.

If you are concerned about yourself or a loved one, call Lifespan at **244-8400.**

Symptoms of Substance Misuse

- Sleep complaints, unusual fatigue
- Neglect of personal appearance and hygiene
- Persistent irritability, altered mood, depression/anxiety
- Emotional withdrawal from family/friends
- Confusion
- Incontinence
- Unexplained nausea, vomiting
- Poor eating habits
- Slurred speech
- Frequent falls
- Tremors
- Excessive visits to multiple doctors