Acute Alcohol Intoxication

Alcohol intoxication means your blood alcohol level is above legal limits. Alcohol is a drug that has significant side effects. The following are some of the side effects of alcohol taken in any dose:

- It slows down your reflexes. You will respond more slowly in times of emergency.
- It impairs judgment and decreases your muscle coordination in higher doses.
- Over time, it can cause damage to organs of the body (mainly the liver, but also the nervous system and blood system).

SOCIAL PROBLEMS CAUSED BY ALCOHOL

- Fatal auto accidents. **DO NOT DRIVE IF YOU HAVE BEEN DRINKING!**
- A leading cause of divorce and domestic abuse.
- A significant factor in job loss.

Alcohol can be addicting and is a complex habit to treat. Your caregiver or substance abuse centers can help you receive treatment if it is needed.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You become shaky or tremble when you try to stop drinking.
- You shake uncontrollably (*seizure*).
- You throw up (*vomit*) blood. This may be bright red or look like black coffee grounds.
- You have blood in the stool. This may be bright red or appear as a black, tarry, bad smelling stool.
- You become lightheaded or faint. **DO NOT DRIVE IF YOU FEEL THIS WAY.** Have someone else drive you or **call your local emergency services (911 in U.S.)** for help.

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