

# Barbiturate Addiction & Treatment

Barbiturates are prescribed legally for medical use and produce a wide spectrum of central nervous system depression, from mild sedation to coma. They are used as sedatives, hypnotics, anesthetics and anticonvulsants. The primary differences between barbiturates are related to their effects. Barbiturates are classified as ultra-short, short, intermediate and long-acting. Generally ingested as a pill, barbiturates can also be dissolved and injected. The following barbiturates are available and go by these names:

Amobarbital (Amytal), Aprobarbital, Butobarbital (Fiorinal), Hexobarbital (Sombulex), Methylphenobarbital (Mebaral), Pentobarbital (Nembutal), Phenobarbital (Luminal), Secobarbital (Seconal), Talbutal (Lotusate), Thiobarbital, Tuinal (equal proportions of amobarbital and secobarbital)

## Effects of Barbiturates

In moderate amounts, barbiturates produce a state of intoxication that is similar to that of alcohol intoxication. Symptoms can include slurred speech, loss of motor coordination and impaired judgment. Barbiturates can also cause drowsiness, confusion, inability to concentrate, tremors, depressed pulse rate and more. Using barbiturates can lead to addiction and dependency.

## Lasting/Long-Term Effects

Barbiturate users can rapidly develop both a physical and psychological tolerance over time, depending upon dose, frequency and duration of use. With the development of a tolerance for barbiturates, users are at greater risk for overdose, as the margin of safety between an effective dose and a lethal dose becomes narrow over time. This can lead to coma and/or death.

## Detox/Rehab

Due to the fact that barbiturates are legally prescribed to many people, it can be difficult for the user to make the decision to enter treatment. Because the drug is legally prescribed, addicts will often justify the use.