

Table 11-5: Definitions of Addiction, Physical Dependence, Tolerance, and Pseudo-Addiction

Addiction	<p>A primary, chronic neurobiologic disease, with genetic, psychosocial, and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations.</p> <hr/> <p>It is characterized by behaviors that include one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impaired control over drug use; • compulsive use; • continued use despite harm; and • craving. <hr/> <p>Most consistent with related concepts of <i>psychological dependence</i> and the DSM-IV criteria for <i>substance dependence</i>.</p>
Physical dependence	<p>A state of adaptation that is manifested by a drug class-specific withdrawal syndrome that can be produced by abrupt cessation, rapid dose reduction, decreasing blood level of the drug, and/or administration of an antagonist.</p>
Tolerance	<p>A state of adaptation in which exposure to a drug induces changes that result in a diminution of one or more of the drug's effects over time.</p>
Pseudo-addiction	<p>Syndrome of behavioral symptoms which mimic those seen with psychological dependence, including an overwhelming and compulsive interest in the acquisition and use of opioid analgesics.</p> <hr/> <p>Unlike true psychological dependence, pseudo-addiction is an iatrogenic syndrome caused by the undermedication of pain.</p> <hr/> <p>Symptoms and aberrant behaviors resolve once pain is effectively controlled.</p>

Sources: American Academy of Pain Medicine, American Pain Society and American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). *Definitions Related to the Use of Opioids for the Treatment of Pain*. Public policy statement, 2001. Available at <http://www.asam.org>; Weissman DE, Hadox DJ. Opioid pseudoaddiction – an iatrogenic syndrome. *Pain* 36:363-6, 1989.