**Unit 20—Substance Abuse**

Objectives

Upon completing this unit, you should be able to:

* Define the terms listed in the vocabulary.
* Describe problems that are associated with substance abuse.
* List the effects that alcohol has as a multisystem toxin and a central nervous system depressant.
* Be aware of some drugs that interact with alcohol.
* Complete the critical thinking questions and activities presented in this unit.
* Describe nicotine, club drugs, and inhalants as substances being abused.
* State the effects that amphetamines have upon the body.
* Describe methamphetamine and how it affects the body.
* Describe cocaine as a central nervous system stimulant, and how it is used as an abused sub- stance.
* State how barbiturates are abused, and explain their effects upon the body.
* Describe how narcotic analgesics are abused, and explain their effects upon the body.
* Describe marijuana as an abused substance.
* State why lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) is a hallucinogenic agent, and describe its effects upon the body.
* Describe prescription drug abuse and addiction.
* State the medical assistant’s role in recognizing substance abuse, and the action to take when  substance abuse is suspected.
* List the earning signs of substance abuse in the workplace.
* Complete the Spot Check on interactions of selected drugs and alcohol.
* Answer the review questions correctly.