**Substance Use Issues and the Older Adult**

This course examines a range of salient issues for professionals who work with older adults: physical and psychological responses to substances as people age, guidelines for healthy alcohol use, signs and symptoms of problem use, the continuum of substance-use involvement, and risk and protective factors. We’ll also discuss dilemmas associated with prescription medication misuse.

**This seminar is designed to help you:**

• Articulate the impact of alcohol consumption in the aging process

• Become familiar with the guidelines for alcohol consumption for persons age 65 and older

• Discuss the prevalence of alcohol misuse in older adults

• Identify risks associated with comorbid mental illness and substance abuse

• Review which prescription medications should not be taken with alcohol

• Explain how geriatric depression is related to substance abuse and misuse

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