Case 3, Substance Abuse

Marcus is a 15-year-old boy who was seen two weeks previously in the emergency room for a huffing incident. While his parents were away and after Marcus had mowed the lawn, he put the lawn mower and gasoline back into the shed and began sniffing gasoline. His parents came home and discovered him passed out in the shed next to the gasoline can and immediately transported him to the hospital emergency room. Marcus was treated and released, and his parents were concerned, but Marcus insisted this was a one-time incident. However, the next week his parents found several aerosol cans in their son’s room.

During his first session Marcus admits to sneaking around and huffing whatever he can whenever he can. He reports feeling out of control. He says he loves the instant high and cannot help himself.