Substance Use, Misuse, and Abuse

Directions: Carefully read each situation or scenario. Decide if it’s an example of substance use, misuse, or abuse. Circle your answer.

1. Mary has had a splitting headache all day. When she gets home from work, she decides to take aspirin. She carefully reads the label on the box for the correct dosage. She also reads the label for possible warnings and side effects.

   Use                          Misuse                               Abuse

2. Kyle has been given a prescription medicine from his doctor. The label on the bottle instructs Kyle to take 1 pill every 6 hours. Kyle took his first pill at 9AM, and a second one at 12PM.

   Use                          Misuse                               Abuse

3. Jennifer has been prescribed pain medication for a recent knee operation. She tells her brother Chris that when she takes it, she feels really dizzy and lightheaded. Later that night, Chris decides to sneak it from her room and try it.

   Use                          Misuse                               Abuse

4. Mike has a stomachache. He tells his mom and she gives him Pepto-Bismol. She read the label and checks to make sure she is giving him the appropriate amount.

   Use                          Misuse                               Abuse

5. Stephanie is sleeping over her friend Alex’s house. She is not feeling well and has a bad headache. She tells Alex about it and Alex tells her mom. Alex’s mom gives her medication that Alex was prescribed by her doctor last month.

   Use                          Misuse                               Abuse

6. Last week John helped his father with a painting project. They had to repaint an old piece of furniture that’s been in John’s family for 2 generations. John’s father explained that you should never use dangerous paint products in a closed area because they may contain harmful chemicals that can make you dizzy or cause you to pass out. John is very curious about what that would be like so he decides to go into the garage and sniff them to see what happens.

   Use                          Misuse                               Abuse
7. Sue has a prescription for pain medication. The label on the bottle states that she should take 2 pills every 4 hours with food. It also states that she should not drive or operate machinery while taking this medication. It’s 8AM and she takes her first dose on her way to work. She has a half-hour drive to the office.

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8. Billy and Tyler are sophomores in high school. While hanging out at Billy’s house after school one Friday, they decide to drink some of the alcohol that is in Billy’s parent’s office downstairs.

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9. Joe is not feeling well. When he woke up this morning, his eyes were watery, his nose stuffed, and he was coughing a lot. As he looked through the medicine cabinet in the bathroom, he came across his brother’s prescription allergy medication. Joe knows that his brother takes this for the very same symptoms so he decided to do the same.

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Create 1 example for use, misuse, & abuse.