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INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY™

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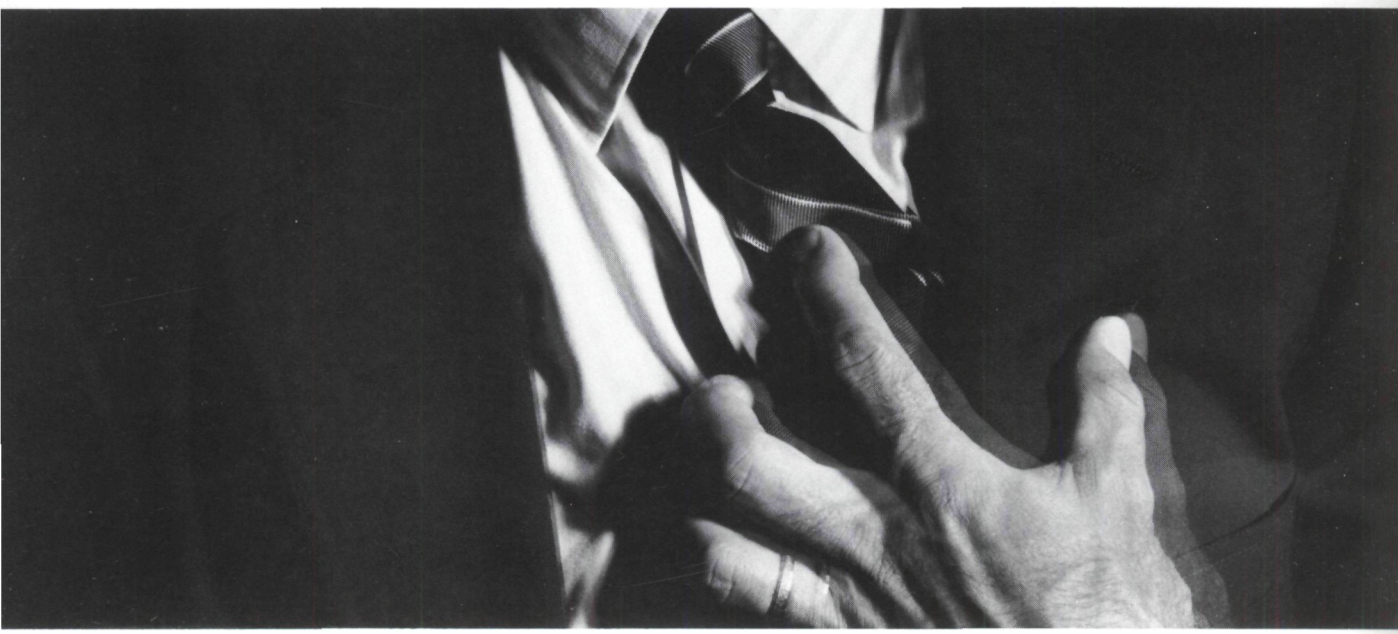
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SOME PEOPLE TAKE DRUG ABUSE TO HEART.



Most cocaine users are so dedicated to the drug that what it does to their hearts never enters their minds. They don't realize that every time they use cocaine, they put themselves at risk for such potentially fatal cardiovascular complications as hypertensive crisis... myocarditis...myocardial infarction ...ventricular tachycardia...ventricular fibrillation...even cardiac arrest.

Chances are, at least some of these people are your patients. And many of them may feel more comfortable telling a nurse what they can't—or won't—tell a doctor. That's why your role becomes critical in helping suspected drug abusers understand what illegal drug use does to their bodies.

As key members of the health care team, nurses *can* make a difference in helping to curb drug abuse, and in preventing some of its deadliest consequences. The next time you suspect a patient may be using cocaine—or *any* illegal substance—have a heart-to-heart talk about the damage these drugs can do.

A short talk can go a long way.

Partnership for a Drug-Free America

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