

Case Study 1: Doer Family

David is a 28-year-old male. David has a history of chronic pain from a motorcycle accident he suffered 4 years ago at the age of 24. He felt that recently life was on the upswing. After being unemployed for 3 years due to chronic pain David finally solidified employment, 6 weeks ago, at the local Auto Repair Shop. He will be eligible for family health benefits after 12 weeks of successful employment. While working at the auto repair shop David was able to purchase a used car that would be large enough to transport his family of 5 (David, Laura, his wife, Mike, 3-year-old son, Sarah, 5-year-old daughter, and Kyle, 7-year-old son). The car is old but it was reasonably priced and after all David was now employed and had a little extra income to pay for the car.

David and Laura have a daily routing. David drops Sarah and Kyle at the local school at 8:10am and then has sufficient time to arrive at work by 8:45am. Because there is not enough time for David to drop Laura off at work, get Sarah and Kyle to school, and report to his work on time, Laura rides the bus to her work at the local deli. Laura works 2-3 days per week and on her way to work she drops their toddler son, Mike, at the day care that is next door to the deli. This family routine has been running smoothly for the last several weeks.

On this particular morning the car overheated while David was transporting Sarah and Kyle to school. He had to cool down the car with water and then the radiator cracked. By the time David was able to have the car towed and catch a bus with Sarah and Kyle to school, the school children were late to arrive. The principal at the school was not too pleased with the children arriving to school late and she let David know that. By the time David arrived at work he was an hour late. His boss told him that they called in a sub for the day and he would not be needed to work that particular day, and he was sent home with his pay docked for the day.

Being very angry and frustrated, David returned home. Losing wages for a day was going to be stressful for this family. David was not able to calm himself from the aggravation of the morning mishaps and the resulting consequences. He remembers he had some OxyContin left from his past history of chronic pain. David was going to just take one to help take the edge off and allow him to rest. David did not stop at one pill and was eventually unresponsive from the overdose.

8:00-10:00 am

- David drops the children at school and is harassed for them being tardy.
- Laura drops Mike at day-care.
- Laura buys bus passes.

10:00 am-12:00 pm

- David ingests a handful of OxyContin.
- Laura receives a phone call from day care that her son, Mike, is ill with a fever and diarrhea and will need to be picked up.
- Laura picks Mike up from day care and returns home.

12:00–2:00 pm

- When Laura returns home she finds David unconscious in the family home with a bottle of pills next to him. She immediately calls 911.
- Paramedics are very judgmental... “here we go again, no good person, etc.”
- Laura calls her mom to come to the house to watch the children. (BUS TRANSPORTATION NEEDED FOR GRANDMA. REQUIRES A BUS PASS).
- Laura takes the bus to the hospital (BUS PASS).

2:00-4:00 pm

- Laura’s mom forgets to pick-up Kyle and Sarah at school.
- GRANDMA TAKES A BUS TO SCHOOL (BUS PASS)
- Secretary is not nice to grandma when she arrives.
- Children are stressed and SAD as they have no one picking them up from school.
- School secretary harassed the kids about being left at school.

4:00-6:00 pm

- Mike now has a fever of 102F. Grandma and all of the children stop at the urgent care due to Mike’s fever.
- There was a long wait in the waiting room. After being seen Grandma was given an Rx (Zithromax) for Mike.
- Laura is at the hospital with registration filling out paper work for David.

6:00-8:00 pm

- Grandma goes to the pharmacy to get the Rx filled for Mike. While at the pharmacy she finds out Zithromax is not covered under Medicaid.
- Message is left at the home indicating the car repair will be \$150.
- Laura is finally able to see her husband. The social worker meets with Laura and David and suggests David enter a rehab program. This will be a stress for the family as David will be without pay.
- When they contacted David’s employer about a leave he was informed he may lose his job as he is still in the probation period.

Community Agencies

- Bus passes
- School/secretary
- Day Care
- 911
- Hospital
- Urgent care/clinic
- Pharmacy
- Social worker
- Employer