Map 03/Opioid detoxification
The opioid withdrawal syndrome

Regular use of opioid drug

Body gets used to the effects (takes days to weeks)

You need to take more opioid drugs to get the same effect (TOLERANCE)

When you cut down or stop opioids you experience WITHDRAWAL

Worst after 2-3 days, and returns to normal after 7-14 days

Noradrenaline

Brain chemical that produces the ‘fight-or-flight response’, increasing heart rate, releasing energy from body stores, and increasing blood flow to the muscles

Brain finds it harder to make noradrenaline

Brain has to work harder

Brain is still working too hard to make noradrenaline

Too much noradrenaline

Withdrawal symptoms

Client name:     Keyworker: Date: __ / __ / __