MONTANA CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CENTER POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Subject: Acutely Intoxicated Patient	
Policy Number: MNP 03	**Standards/Statutes: ARM 37.27.130**
Effective Date: 01/01/02	**Page 1 of 2**

PURPOSE:

To obtain a medical evaluation on a patient that presents as acutely intoxicated.

POLICY:

Because of the potential for serious medical problems in a new admission that presents as acutely intoxicated, nursing staff will notify the physician on call for a determination as to the patient's appropriateness for admission.

PROCEDURE:

I. At the time of admission, the nursing staff will have the new patient complete a Breathalyzer as a routine part of the admission process. If the patient's Breathalyzer reading is 0.4 or greater, or if the patient is unable to blow into the Breathalyzer because of acute intoxication, the charge nurse will immediately notify the physician on call. The physician will make a determination of the patient's stability and possible need for evaluation and/or treatment at St. James Healthcare.

II. If the patient is admitted to the medical treatment unit for detox at MCDC, the charge nurse will:

III. Will monitor the patient's condition very closely for CNS depression.

IV. The benzodiazepine protocol will not be initiated until the patient displays objective, observable signs and symptoms of withdrawal.

V. To further assess the patient's condition, repeat Breathalyzer testing may be periodically completed.

VI. Besides the detox standing orders, any other orders written by the attending physician will be initiated.

VII. All assessments and interactions pertaining to patient's condition will be documented in the patient's chart.

VIII. If the physician on call gives an order to transfer the patient to St. James Health Care, it will be the discretion of the charge nurse as to how the patient will be transferred to St. James Health Care. This will

depend on the nurse's assessment of the patient's general medical status, including the patient's level of consciousness, the patient's motor control/gait, vital signs, the cooperation level of the patient, and the commitment status.

IX. Options for transfer will include MCDC transportation, A-1 Ambulance, and the Butte Police.

X. The charge nurse will complete a MCDC transfer sheet and call the emergency room nursing staff to inform them of the transfer.

XI. MCDC medical/nursing staff will remain in close contact with the St. James's medical/nursing staff as to the condition of the patient and further disposition of the patient. If and/or when the patient is found to be medically stable for care at MCDC, the patient will be transferred back to MCDC for CD treatment.

XII. If the patient is admitted to in-patient care at St. James, the patient will be discharged in accordance to policy. At the completion of in-patient care at St. James, the patient will be transferred back to MCDC for completion of CD Treatment.

XIII. The charge nurse will document all events pertaining to assessment, transfer, and on-going communication with St. James staff in the patient chart.

Revisions:

Prepared By: Colleen Todorovich, RN Nursing Supervisor 08-10-01
Name Title Date

Approved By: 01/01/02
David J. Peshek, Administrator