

# HEALTH SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL

North Carolina Department Of Correction  
Division Of Prisons

SECTION: Care and Treatment of Patients

POLICY # TX I-9

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SUBJECT: Detoxification and Drug Withdrawal

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2012

SUPERCEDES DATE: October 2007

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## References

Related ACA Standards

4<sup>th</sup> Edition Standards for adult Correctional  
Institutions 4-4363-1, 4-4376

## PURPOSE

To provide guidelines on providing access to care and treatment for patients needing detoxification and drug withdrawal.

## POLICY

Guidelines shall be established for the treatment and observation of individuals manifesting symptoms of intoxication or withdrawal from alcohol and/or drugs. Inmates experiencing withdrawal from alcohol or drugs shall be evaluated by a physician to determine appropriate care.

## PROCEDURE

- A. Individuals at risk for progression to severe levels of intoxication or withdrawal will be under observation by qualified health care professionals and transferred to local community hospital.
- B. The clinical management of these individuals will be under the directions of a physician with regard to diagnosis, non-pharmacological or pharmacological care, individualized treatment plan (including the level and frequency of observation), and utilization of community resources when required.
- C. Detoxification will be performed only under medical supervision in a community detox center **as indicated**. Special attention will be given to intoxication and withdrawal circumstances involving psychotic, geriatric, epileptic, pregnant and juvenile patients.
- D. Inmate experiencing severe life threatening intoxication or overdose will be transferred to local community hospital.



1/31/12

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Paula Y. Smith, MD, Director of Health Services

Date

SOR: Deputy Medical Director