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

References
Related ACA Standards 4th 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

Paula Y. Smith, M.D., Director of Health Services Date

SOR: Deputy Medical Director