

SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH	Policy Number: 1.1431
Policy Title: Intoxicated Youth and Youth With a Substance Use Disorder Corresponds to: Title 15, Article 8, Section 1431	Written: 3/15/2013 Revised: 6/16/2021

I. POLICY

- A. Youth shall be assessed by a health administrator/licensed healthcare provider for intoxication with drugs including alcohol as part of the medical clearance and triage procedure. SPY nurse will emergently administer Narcan to any youth who presents with breathing problems, severe sedation, or unresponsiveness due to known or suspected opioid overdose. Youth who may need medical intervention will not be cleared, and instead referred to San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) Emergency Department for medical clearance.
- B. Youth who may require frequent health monitoring or protective care due to acute intoxication, withdrawal, or who are intoxicated and known to be pregnant shall not be cleared by SPY staff, and should a youth be cleared who is later found to be intoxicated and needing such care they will be transferred to SFGH.
- C. The health clearance forms will include a question about recent ingestion of drugs including alcohol, and the triage form will include documentation of any signs (such as dilated pupils, rapid pulse) or symptoms (such as altered speech or gait) of intoxication.
- D. Youth who are intoxicated and admitted shall be monitored at the JJC standard every 15 minutes by counseling staff, and those checks documented by the usual JJC procedure for such checks. 6 hours after admission, nursing staff will assess the youth again and either document they no longer display symptoms of intoxication or withdrawal, or that the youth remains intoxicated. That assessment shall be documented in the medical record.
- E. Nursing and medical staff shall complete a behavioral health or health education referral for youth with a pattern of drug or alcohol abuse, or who are known to be pregnant and using drugs or alcohol, and interventions for the abuse will be documented and when appropriate continued after release via coordination with community providers.

II. PROCEDURES

- A. SPY nursing staff will assess all youth brought for admission to the JJC for intoxication as part of completing the "SPY Clearance Questionnaire".
 - i. If a youth admits to or the SPY staff believe he or she is acutely intoxicated and unable to be safely admitted to the JJC, SPY staff will not sign the JJC medical clearance paperwork. If the police remain, they should be advised to take the youth to SFGH ED for medical clearance, or advise JJC staff of the necessity for youth to be cleared at SFGH.
- B. Nursing staff shall pay particular attention to youth with a history of alcohol or opiate abuse who may experience withdrawal symptoms during detention, and youth who may have ingested large amounts of drugs just prior to arrest.
- C. If an intoxicated youth is cleared for admission, a thorough assessment including vital signs will be recorded on the "Nursing Triage/Assessment Form", and the nurse will reassess that youth as needed but no longer than six hours after admission. Those





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assessments will be documented, and the date and time that the youth was found no longer to be intoxicated will be recorded in a progress note.

When a youth is intoxicated, experiencing progressive or severe intoxication or withdrawal, they shall be immediately medically evaluated; and, that intoxication beyond four hours from the time of admission shall require a medical evaluation.

- D. Refer any youth with a behavioral health component to their drug use to Behavioral Health via a Behavioral Health referral and consider a Health Education referral for youth who may benefit from harm reduction counseling.
- E. Behavioral Health and Health Education providers will include drug and alcohol abuse treatment coordination as part of recommendations on out of home placement and refer youth to community resources for continued treatment after release when appropriate.

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