

ALCOHOL / SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND WITHDRAWAL

STANDARD NO(S): NYSSA 152 & 153

DATE: January 7, 2010

REFER TO: Roger O. Ward

I. OBJECTIVE:

To establish the Seneca County Correctional Facility's policy and procedures regarding inmates who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs or those going through withdrawal.

II. POLICY:

Upon admission all inmates will be evaluated for their use and/or dependence on alcohol or other drugs using the medical screening form.

Inmates reporting the use of alcohol, opiates, stimulants, sedatives, hypnotics, or other legal or illegal substances will be evaluated for their degree of intoxication and potential for withdrawal from these substances.

The responsible physician will approve, in writing, all procedures and specific protocols for the treatment of inmates under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or those undergoing withdrawal. The "Approved Protocols" will be kept on file in the medical department and updated as necessary.

Detoxification will be carried out according to the protocols established by the physician.

III. DETAILS:

- A. Inmates who have symptoms of severe or potentially life-threatening withdrawal will be hospitalized upon receiving physician orders.
- B. During the receiving screening, each new inmate will be asked about his or her alcohol and drug use. Specific information should be obtained regarding type of substance, frequency and amount of usage, how long the inmate has been using and time of last use.

- C.** The facility nurse completing the receiving screening will assess the inmate for the following:
1. Nausea and/or vomiting
 2. Tremors, tremulousness or agitation
 3. Known alcohol abuser
 4. History or alcoholic seizure
 5. Auditory or visual hallucinations
 6. Confusion
 7. Unsteadiness or lack of coordination
- D.** Inmates who are deemed as being in need of detoxification will be housed in a designated area that is not part of the general population until detoxification is completed, if ordered by the physician.
- E.** Physician protocols will be initiated as soon as the potential for withdrawal is assessed.