

Case Study 1

The rights of the patients under the influence of alcohol

Overview

A quick summary of the text you are about to tell

Video-script for:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0VYLl0sjdo>

<https://www.theguardian.com/healthcare-network/2016/jan/22/impact-alcohol-nhs-drunks-247>

The patient under the influence of alcohol
is it still a regular patient or have no rights?

- treating the patients which are drunk ;
- can they be accepted in the hospital;

The background:

Persons under the influence of alcohol are often admitted as patients to hospital emergency departments (EDs) and other hospital wards. Their behavior usually differs from the socially accepted norms, and, in consequence, these patients receive lower quality medical care, which is counted as discrimination. In this situation however, it is often difficult to define whether patients under the influence of alcohol are victims of discrimination or aggressors.

Situation:

To the hospital arrives the lady with the son. She is drunk with a broken ankle. The son tries to calm her down but the woman is full of energy and behaves loudly. Hospital staff is trying to react. A doctor and a nurse are trying to plant a patient in a wheelchair. After a good time, the woman manages to be transported to the ward. At the same time, the situation is filmed by witnesses on mobile phones.

Problems and questions:

How to treat the drunk patients?

How to behave towards drunk patients?

Should they be accepted to the hospital?

What are they rights?

Information:

Regardless of the trouble the person under the influence of alcohol causes, he or she should be treated in the same manner as any other patient. Polish law, including the Act on Medical Activity, even increases the responsibility of the staff, clearly specifying that discharge from hospital is possible only “when a patient violates, in an extreme manner, the order or course of the process of health service provision and there is no concern that refusal or cessation of providing health services might cause a direct threat for his/her life or health and life or health of other persons. This clearly means that in each case of [intoxication](#), complete sobering in hospital conditions is required as well as complete diagnostics and treatment, regardless of the conditions of the procedure