

# Practice Update

March 15 2018

## \*UNIT CHIEFS & DISPATCH SUPERVISORS - PLEASE POST\*

- Audience:** All Patient Care Communications and Planning and Patient Care Delivery staff working on Vancouver Island.
- Subject:** **Transport to Safe Sobering Sites, Vancouver Island, Various locations**
- What's New?** Effective March 2, 2018, paramedics can transport non-complex intoxicated, post-overdose, patients who meet the criteria below directly to community safe sobering sites.
- Why?** To redirect non-complex intoxicated, post overdose people to the appropriate services.
- How does this affect my practice?** Non-complex, intoxicated, post-overdose patients who meet the criteria can be transported directly to an approved community safe sobering site. **Note:** please choose "Other" in the CAD and let Dispatch know you are transporting to your communities safe sobering site. Patients who have suffered an overdose and require hospital ED follow-up will continue to be transported to the nearest, most appropriate hospital. Patients with behavioral issues, aggression, or who are severely intoxicated should NOT be transported to safe sobering sites and should be taken to the nearest hospital.

### Inclusion/Exclusion criteria for Safe Sobering Sites

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient under the influence of alcohol &amp;/or drugs</li> <li>• Do not require acute medical or psychiatric treatment</li> <li>• Voluntarily seek admission to a supportive environment</li> <li>• Are not going into withdrawal from substances</li> <li>• Patients able to walk/move as they normally would</li> <li>• 19 years old or older</li> <li>• Full patient assessment completed and documented</li> <li>• Paramedic Specialist (CliniCall) contacted. <b>*Mandatory</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appears unwell, toxic.</li> <li>• Unstable vital signs defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCS &lt;15</li> <li>• Temp &gt;38.5</li> <li>• Pulse &lt;45</li> <li>• Systolic BP &lt;90 or &gt;175</li> <li>• O2 Sat &lt;92%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Blood sugar &lt;4 or &gt;15</li> <li>• Suspected CNS infection</li> <li>• Suspicion of aggression or extreme agitation</li> <li>• History of Trauma, head injury or recent seizure. *Detailed exam of patient required</li> </ul>

- Where can I get more information?** Contact your supervisor to become familiar with available approved safe sobering site in your response area and their specific protocols as each site will have specific criteria.
- Who do I contact if I have questions?** For questions, please contact your supervisor.