

PROCEDURE FOR: Commitment for Alcohol and Drug: 5 Day Paper

**PURPOSE:** Any patient who is acutely intoxicated and/or incapacitated by alcohol or drugs may be held on Emergency Alcohol Committal - 5 Day Paper. Emergency Commitment is also allowed for detoxification, even if the patient is not intoxicated at the time of the commitment application.

**POLICY:** A patient whose mental or physical function is substantially impaired by the use of alcohol or drugs, or the patient is unconscious, or he is incapable of realizing and making a rational decision with respect to his treatment may be committed on a 5 day paper.

**EQUIPMENT:** Application for 5 Day Emergency Commitment Form - FAC-14 10/00 available at: [www.dnhas.state.ct.us/documents/fac-14.pdf](http://www.dnhas.state.ct.us/documents/fac-14.pdf) (Appendix A)  
Transportation Authorization Certificate - MBCC15 (Appendix B)

**PROCEDURE:**

ACTION

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Obtain blood alcohol level.   | 1. Cleanse skin with betadine prior to venipuncture.  |
| 2. A medical evaluation is done by physician.  | 2. Patients who are experiencing delirium tremens (DT's) or other active medical problems need to be treated in the Emergency Department or with admission to hospital prior to further disposition regarding intoxication problem. |
| 3. The Emergency Department physician, in conjunction with a psychiatry consult, shall make a judgment regarding the disposition of the patient. |   |
| 4. Application for emergency commitment may be filled out.   | 4. Top half of front and entire back of form to be filled out by  |

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physician.

5. Blue Hills Hospital access line:  
1-800-563-4086 is to be called with patient information including blood alcohol level.
6. Original copy of commitment paper to accompany patient to receiving facility. One copy is scanned into the electronic Emergency Department record.
7. The Transportation Authorization Certificate must be placed in the following records:
  - a. Original plus 3 copies to the ambulance company.
  - b. One copy to receiving facility.
  - c. One copy to be scanned into the electronic Emergency Department record.
8. Patient will be transferred via ambulance to the receiving facility.

APPROVAL: ED Standards Committee  
Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/92

REVISION DATES: 9/96, 10/99, 3/06

REVIEWED DATES: 9/08

Procedure

Emergency Department-Unit Practice Manual  
John Dempsey Hospital-Department of Nursing  
The University of Connecticut Health Center

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