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Reviewed:	6/88	12/30/92	11/93	5/94	12/99	12/00	4/06
Revised:	10/90	6/91	8/94	12/96	11/98	4/03	

Patient Population

Neonate	
Pediatric	
Adolescent	√
Adult	√
Geriatric	√

POLICY:

Patients presenting with alcoholism as a primary or complicating complaint will be managed according to their physiological and emotional needs in a human manner.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Patients presenting with complaints relating to or complicated by alcohol consumption and/ or intoxication may have a variety of metabolic, toxicologic, traumatic or psychiatric issues that require acute intervention.

The mainstay of care for the alcohol impaired patient is a thorough history and physical examination, followed by repeated evaluation in the ED until discharge.

Labs and studies should be ordered according to the physician evaluation and level of suspicion of underlying condition.

Patient may be discharged once the physician is confident there is no underlying acute injury. Patients must be clinically sober for discharge, or be discharged in the care of a responsible family member.