


Chapter:	Health Care	Classification:	Public Document
Subject:	Drug or Alcohol Withdrawal		
For:	Correctional Facilities	 Authorized by Executive Director	

1. Policy

- 1.1 An individual with a history of drug or alcohol abuse or who appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be placed on special watch in accordance with Policy and Procedures Subject No. 46.15.00, [Special and Suicide Watch](#).


2. Guidelines

- 2.1 Symptoms of drug withdrawal may vary and could occur between one and fifteen days after consuming the drug.
- 2.2 Symptoms of alcohol withdrawal typically occur six to twelve hours after the last drink and peaks after twenty-four to forty-eight hours and could last about two to five days.

3. Signs and Symptoms of Withdrawal

- 3.1 Signs and symptoms of drug or alcohol withdrawal may include
 - 3.1.1 nausea
 - 3.1.2 vomiting
 - 3.1.3 tremors
 - 3.1.4 sweating
 - 3.1.5 blurred vision
 - 3.1.6 weakness
 - 3.1.7 anxiety
 - 3.1.8 irritability
 - 3.1.9 twitching
 - 3.1.10 hallucinations
 - 3.1.11 disorientation
 - 3.1.12 seizures
 - 3.1.13 panic
 - 3.1.14 craving for drugs
 - 3.1.15 diarrhea
 - 3.1.16 decreased appetite
 - 3.1.17 abdominal discomfort
 - 3.1.18 goose bumps or chills

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4. Procedures

- 4.1 An individual who displays drug or alcohol withdrawal symptoms will be referred to health care.
- 4.2 In the absence of health care staff, where an individual's withdrawal symptoms persist, or exhibit symptoms of tremors, hallucinations, seizures, sweating or vomiting, 911 will be called to attend the facility to assess the individual and determine if transport to local emergency room is required.
- 4.3 If the individual's condition requires ongoing monitoring by health care, the individual will be transferred to a correctional facility that can provide the required level of health care service in accordance with local standard operating procedures.

5. Standard Operating Procedures

- 5.1 Superintendents will develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to address additional procedures to be followed with respect to an individual who appears to be withdrawing from drugs and/or alcohol.