

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
CENTER FOR SLEEP RELATED DISORDERS
POLICY AND PROCEDURES
SUSPECTED INTOXICATED PATIENT**

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Cross Referenced:

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Origin: Center for Sleep Disorders

Authority: Cardio/Pulmonary Manager

Page: 1 of 1

PURPOSE: To ensure the safety of the patient and the Sleep Center staff in the event that a patient arrives in an intoxicated state.

POLICY: If a patient entering the Sleep Center is believed to have consumed or admits to consuming a significant quantity of alcohol, or a controlled or illicit substance, the following procedure needs to be followed in order to ensure the safety of the patient and the staff members.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Medical Director or the physician on call for the Sleep Center will be contacted to determine if testing should proceed.
2. If it is determined that testing should not proceed, the patient will be notified that the study has been cancelled and be given the following options:
 - The patient can call a friend or relative to drive him/her home.
 - If the options above are refused, the patient will be referred to the Emergency Room.
 - If after taking all the reasonable measures listed above, the patient still insists on driving home, inform him/her that we will be calling the police to inform the authorities that we believe that he/she is intoxicated and will be attempting to drive home.
 - If the patient wants to leave, let him/her leave, as we cannot restrain them.
 - Document the incident thoroughly.
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NOTE: If for any reason you believe that the patient may become violent upon confrontation, use one of 3 panic buttons Marked Dr. S within the sleep lab. There is one in the hallway located by the wall phone, the control room and the staff bathroom. Weekly testing will be performed by the night technologist by calling the operator and giving notice that testing will proceed. Flip each switch one at a time for a few seconds. Then return call to hospital operator to ensure switches were functioning properly.

See Hospital Policy AD025 listed in Addendum