



# GENERAL ORDER

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

**Chapter:** Correctional Services

**Section:** 504.1

**Subject:** Special Management

**Topic:** Initial Medical Evaluation and Intoxication

**Enacted:** 04/16/2008

**Last Review:** 01/28/2026

**Review:** 01/01/2028

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to provide directives which optimize the safety, security, and medical care of individuals who exhibit signs of intoxication, injury, or other medical issues upon arriving at the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center (ADC).

## II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Corrections Division that arrestees and inmates who exhibit signs of intoxication, injury, or other serious medical condition be evaluated by medical staff.

## III. PROCEDURE

### A. Pre-committal arrestees

Arrestees who arrive at the ADC in the custody of a law enforcement officer shall be immediately evaluated by ADC medical staff if they exhibit signs of extreme intoxication, injury, or other serious medical condition, including but not limited to:

1. Unconsciousness
2. Not responsive to verbal stimuli
3. Unable to walk, sit up, or stand under their own power
4. Blood alcohol content is greater than 0.30 BrAC
5. Obvious injury or signs of head trauma

If medical staff determines that the arrestee requires transport to a hospital for treatment, the supervisor shall direct that the arrestee be transported to the hospital in the custody of the arresting law enforcement officer.

### B. Lawfully committed inmates

If an inmate is discovered to have a serious injury or medical condition during the committal and search process, they shall be evaluated by medical staff.

Lawfully committed [inmates](#) to the ADC, who exhibit signs of intoxication, are found in possession of drugs, or under the influence of drugs not prescribed to them shall be immediately evaluated by medical staff and administered a breath test on a [portable testing device \(Alco-sensor\)](#) and a drug urine screen.

If medical staff determines that an inmate requires transport to a hospital for treatment, the supervisor will direct that the inmate be transported to the hospital in the custody of deputies in compliance with [General Order 510.1 \(Prisoner Transports\)](#) and [504.2 \(Hospital Duty\)](#)

If transport to a hospital is not required, the inmate shall be kept under observation until no longer exhibiting signs of intoxication. A supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the inmate is given an appropriate cell assignment.

#### C. Extreme intoxication

Inmates who develop the following signs of extreme intoxication shall be evaluated by ADC medical staff immediately:

1. Unconsciousness
2. Not responsive to verbal stimuli
3. Unable to walk, sit up, or stand under their own power

If medical staff determines that an inmate requires transport to a hospital for treatment, the supervisor will direct that the inmate be transported to the hospital in the custody of deputies in compliance with [General Order 510.1 \(Prisoner Transports\)](#) and [504.2 \(Hospital Duty\)](#)

Inmates who are unconscious shall be under constant observation.

#### D. Review or release when sober

Inmates are often committed to the custody of the ADC with the condition that they return to the magistrate when sober for a bond review or release. In these situations, the following procedures apply:

1. If feasible, administer an Alco-sensor test at a maximum interval of once every two hours.

2. Return the inmate to the magistrate for a bond review or release when the Alco-sensor test result is .00 BrAC, and the inmate no longer exhibits signs of intoxication.
3. If an inmate's [Alco-sensor](#) test result is .00 BrAC and the inmate still exhibits signs of intoxication, a supervisor shall consider whether drug-induced intoxication is involved. If drug-induced intoxication is suspected, consult the magistrate about prolonging the period before review or release.

#### E. Medical Considerations

1. When Medical staff communicate that an [inmate](#) has special medical requirements, such as being placed into an observation cell or monitored more frequently, deputies shall document the directive in the inmate's electronic activity log and ensure that the directive is followed.
2. If medical staff provides conflicting information regarding appropriate medical treatment for an inmate or arrestee, the shift supervisor shall ensure that the higher level of care is executed.
3. Medical staff shall complete documentation electronically pertaining to emergency room referrals, refusal of admittance, medical housing recommendations, and special orders/conditions.

#### F. Intoxication Concerns – General Population

1. If an inmate in the general population is suspected to have consumed an alcoholic beverage, he/she shall be immediately moved to Intake for observation, evaluated by medical staff, and ordered to submit to an Alco-sensor test and drug urine screen.
2. A thorough investigation shall be completed, including appropriate searches for contraband. Criminal and in-house charges are to be considered, and the incident documented appropriately (in-house incident report, plus an IBR if the incident meets the elements of a crime).
3. If the inmate is discovered to be intoxicated, the inmate shall be moved to an observation cell or to an intake cell if no observations cells are available.