



# POLICY AND PROCEDURE NO.

## Guidelines for Detox vs Emergency Room

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Appropriate for Detox if **all** of the following indicators are met:

1. Person is able to walk (even unsteadily) independently.
2. Person is able to form words (doesn't need to be a coherent sentence).
3. Person has a blood alcohol level of .250 or lower, as indicated by breathalyzer.
4. Person has no obvious signs of head injury or other serious injury requiring medical attention.
5. Person verbalizes willingness to voluntarily be admitted to Detox.

For individuals who meet indicators 1 through 4, but not 5:

- Persons with a home address should be taken home.
- Persons who are homeless should be brought to HOAP triage for assessment.

Appropriate for Emergency Room if **any** of the following indicators are met:

1. Person is not able to walk independently.
2. Person is not able to form words.
3. Person has a blood alcohol level of greater than .250.
4. Person has obvious signs of head injury or other serious injury.

*Prepared by Community Healthlink, for use by Worcester Police Department – 11/19/09*