POLICY:

Patients presenting with alcohol or other drug related intoxication as a primary or complicating complaint will be managed according to their physiological and emotional needs in a humane manner.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Patients presenting with complaints relating to or complicated by drug and / or 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 intoxicated patient is a thorough history and physical examination, followed by repeated evaluation in the ED until discharge.

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

Patient may be discharged once the physician is confident there is no underlying acute injury. Patients must be clinically stable for discharge, or be discharged in the care of a responsible adult. Pediatric Patients treated for intoxication and deemed stable for discharge should be discharged in the care of a parent or legal guardian.