

POLICY MANUAL

Subject: Breath Alcohol Testing Devices

Effective Date: 5/05

Initiated By: Jill Lemonds, RN
Director of Nursing

Approved By: William C. Anderson
Chief Medical Officer

Review Dates:

Revision Dates: 07/08 DT, 2/15 CSF

POLICY:

Cumberland Heights' nursing staff may use breath alcohol testing devices that estimates blood alcohol concentration, or BAC to determine whether or not a patient or potential patient has been consuming alcohol, as well as to what degree intoxication has occurred. The manufacturer has recommended checking accuracy of the instrument and competency of staff using the instrument. Cumberland Heights follows these recommendations.

PROCEDURE:

1. On a daily basis, the night shift nurse tests the device. A reading other than 0 is reported to the Director of Nursing, who will inspect the equipment and ensure repair by the manufacturer. (See Medical Equipment Backup Policy) Daily quality control checks are documented in a log that is maintained in the Medical Services Area.
2. Nursing staff are required to demonstrate competency in the use of device during the employee orientation period. Competency is evaluated thereafter by return demonstration on an every three year basis. Documentation is maintained on file in the Human Resources office.
3. According to the manufacturer, there are no specific cleaning instructions for the device. The units are cleaned with alcohol each night.