

POLICY MANUAL

Subject: Safety of Intoxicated and/or
Disoriented Patients

Effective Date: 9/2/90

Initiated By: Cinde Stewart
Director of Nursing

Approved By: William C. Anderson
Chief Medical Officer

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POLICY:

Cumberland Heights' nursing staff recognizes that the intoxicated or otherwise disoriented patient may be unable to protect him/herself from injury and takes measures to provide this protection.

PROCEDURE:

1. The patient is assisted to bed and side rails are raised.
2. The patient is instructed repeatedly not to get up without assistance.
3. If indicated; fall risk initiated and may include using an electronic bed monitor.
4. Staff uses therapeutic communication skills to reassure and calm patient. Frequent checks continue until patient is no longer intoxicated or disoriented.
5. Cigarettes, lighters, and matches are kept at nursing station until patient becomes oriented.
6. All of the above information is documented in the patient's record along with any other pertinent data.