



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

DIRECTOR:

Wayne P. Santolucito

**POLICY
NUMBER:**
18.52-4 DOC

**EFFECTIVE
DATE:**
10/01/2025

SUBJECT:
INMATES WITH ALCOHOL OR OTHER
DRUG PROBLEMS: INTOXICATION,
WITHDRAWAL AND TREATMENT

LAST REVIEWED:
10/2025

SECTION:
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

SUPERSEDES:
18.52-3 DOC

AUTHORITY: Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 42-56-10 (22), Powers of the director

REFERENCES: NCCHC Standard J-G-06 (essential); RIDOC Health Care Services Nursing Protocols: Alcohol Withdrawal; J-G-08, ACA Standard #'s 4-4376, Management of Detoxification; 4-4377, Management of Chemical Dependency; the most recent version of policies 4.03 DOC, [Orientation and Entrance-Level Training for Non-Correctional Officer Employees, Volunteers, Mentors and Interns](#); 11.01 DOC, [Code of Inmate Discipline](#); 18.22 DOC [Inmates and Visitors with Special Needs](#)

INMATE/PUBLIC ACCESS: YES

AVAILABLE IN SPANISH: YES

I. **PURPOSE:**

To ensure inmates safely withdraw from alcohol and other drugs.

To describe the procedures for offering substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery services to incarcerated individuals.

II. **POLICY:**

- A. To provide appropriate intervention for addiction, the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) has a continuum of treatment options available for inmates.

- B. The medical management of inmates who are intoxicated or withdrawing from alcohol and/or drugs is directed and supervised by a prescribing clinician (a physician or physician extender). The prescribing clinician evaluates the inmate, writes orders and determines proper housing placement, including hospitalization, if necessary.
- C. Acute care in a hospital setting is used when inmates are experiencing severe symptoms of intoxication or withdrawal during intake screening.
- D. Consultation of an OB-GYN physician is recommended in the management of pregnant inmates with substance use disorder histories.
- E. Consultation of psychiatric or specialty physicians is provided as clinically indicated.
- F. All adult inmates detained at the RIDOC are screened for substance use disorder (SUD) and treatment and recovery services are provided as clinically indicated.
- G. Discharge planning and referral to the appropriate level of community

III. **PROCEDURES:**

- A. **Intoxication/Withdrawal Interventions**
 - 1. Nurses evaluate all inmate patients suspected of experiencing symptoms of alcohol or drug withdrawal and implement the appropriate protocols.
 - 2. Nurses refer these patients to prescribing clinicians as needed.
 - 3. Prescribing clinicians evaluate all inmates suspected of experiencing symptoms of alcohol or drug withdrawal and write orders for treatment as necessary.
 - 4. Admission to a local hospital for management of acute symptoms of intoxication or withdrawal occurs based upon a practitioner's assessment and admission order.
 - 5. Inmates admitted on Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) have their therapy continued or medically withdrawn as clinically indicated.

B. Treatment and Recovery Services

Within the constraints of a correctional setting, RIDOC provides a variety of SUD treatment and recovery modalities which include residential, intensive outpatient, and outpatient levels of care along with group counseling, individual counseling, relapse prevention, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and self-help groups to meet the needs of the inmate population.

C. Treatment

1. The courts, classification, Parole Board, or RIDOC staff may request an inmate be evaluated for inclusion in the MAT Program.
2. An inmate may ask to attend the MAT Program through his/her assigned Adult Counselor or other Health Care Provider.
3. RIDOC's contracted MAT treatment and recovery provider will complete an evidence-based assessment of all inmates who are referred to their program to determine the appropriate level of treatment.

D. Termination of Treatment

Inmates are discharged from the MAT treatment and recovery program including but not limited to the following reasons:

1. Completion of the program;
2. Inappropriate behavior/disciplinary action;
3. Transfer to another facility;
4. Voluntary withdrawal.

E. Treatment Staff Training

1. MAT contract providers are responsible for training their own staff according to professional standards.
2. Facility program management includes ongoing meetings between treatment and custody staff. Said meetings occur at least quarterly and address programmatic and security matters.