

POLICY ON THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY PATIENTS At The NATIONAL SPINAL INJURIES CENTRE

In setting up this policy, the following points were taken into consideration:

1. Some patients have, in the past, abused the previous alcohol policy and consumed alcohol in excess with resulting behavioural problems and disruption to the centre.
2. The demands from patients through the patient forum and from staff of the NSIC through the spinal directorate committee (SDC).

Guidelines

1. The consumption of alcohol is ***forbidden on trust premises***. This includes wards, corridors reception area, day rooms, dining room, courtyards, footpaths or car parks.
2. As part of fostering community reintegration, it may be appropriate for patients to visit pubs, clubs and restaurants:
 - Patients consuming alcohol off the premises do so at their own risk and should ensure that they return to the wards safely.
 - In this case, patients should consume alcohol in moderation. Department of Health recommends 3 units/day for men and 2 units/day for women and none during pregnancy.
 - Furthermore, patients should ensure from their doctor that there are no contraindications for them to consume alcohol, e.g. if they are on certain medicines.
 - It is our duty to ensure that no patient under the age of 18 consumes any alcoholic beverages while under the care of the centre.
3. No alcohol should be brought to the centre and any alcohol found stored in patient cupboard or locker will be confiscated.

THE OPERATION OF THIS POLICY SHOULD BE BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND TRUST BETWEEN PATIENTS AND STAFF OF THE NSIC.

DISRUPTION TO THE WARDS AND STAFF ABUSE AFTER CONSUMING ALCOHOL IS A SERIOUS MATTER THAT THE CENTRE WILL NOT TOLERATE.

PATIENTS VIOLATING THIS POLICY WILL BE DEALT WITH USING THE 'PROCEDURE FOR THE CARE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE VIOLENT OR ABUSIVE (AGED 18 OR OVER)'