**Title:** Alcohol Withdrawal Policy

**Department:** Medical / Surgical

**Date:** September 11, 2007

**Revised:**

**Approved By:** Carla Taft RN DNS

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Policy:**

To provide guidelines for the nursing staff in providing care to the patient undergoing alcohol withdraw. To explain to the staff how to use the Alcohol Withdrawal Protocol / Orders.

**Procedure:**

1. The provider will order the Alcohol Withdrawal Protocol used. Two pages are necessary. Be sure to have both of them.
   1. The first page of the Protocol are the nursing instructions and the physician orders
   2. The second page is the “Ativan Assessment Scale”
2. Place the orders on the chart and have the provider date, time and sign the orders.
3. Review the nursing instructions and physician orders
4. Use the second page assessment scale to provide the documentation of each patient assessment done. There are numerical guidelines on the bottom half of the page that will allow each sign / symptom to be scored.
5. The last 4 items on the assessment sheet (Hallucinations, seizures, alertness, adequate airway) are scores as either absent (0) or present(=).
6. Administer Ativan per the total score. The Ativan may be administered either orally, IM or IV depending on the patient’s ability to take the medication.
7. Document the dose and route of the administration of the Ativan on the patient’s MAR.
8. Have the provider sign the order sheet and the nurse must also take off the orders per protocol. Unless the provider has circled or

otherwise indicated not to use a specific order, all of the orders on the Order Sheet need to be noted and signed off. Do not skip any orders.