

Wait, why are staff asking me about my drug use?

We get that it can feel weird to be asked about drugs when you are at the hospital for a completely different reason - let us explain:

We want to make sure we understand all relevant health information. We ask people about this as a part of regular care planning. Sometimes drugs can interfere with medical care (some things just shouldn't be mixed) & we want to keep you as safe as possible!

Too many people are dying from the Toxic Drug Crisis. We care about your health & wellbeing, & will support you whether you use a little, a lot - or not at all.

We're here to help!
Follow QR Code for
Substance Use
Services in IH



Thank you to our Peer Advisors, whose lived & living expertise guided the creation of this resource.



Your Experience Matters

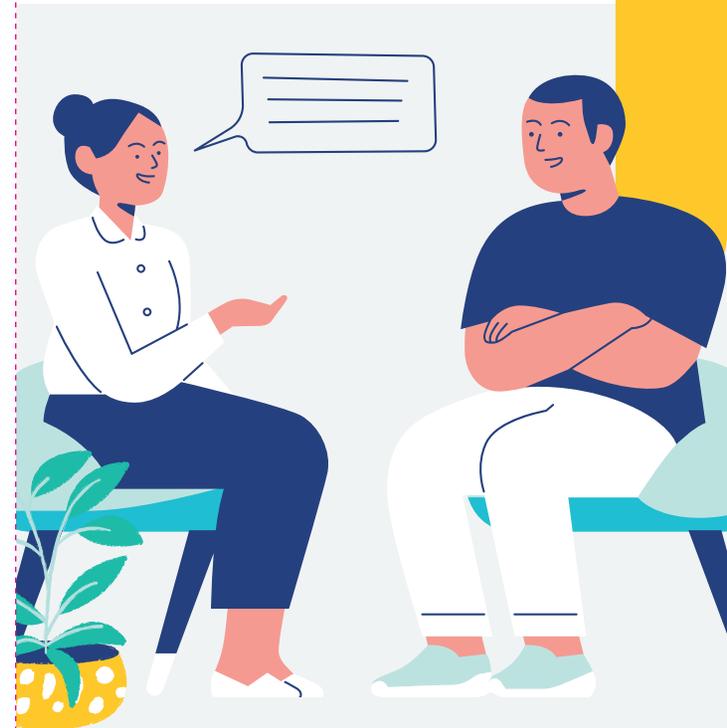
If you feel you were treated poorly or stigmatized due to your drug use, please report it to the Patient Care Quality Office!



Or to the BC Office of Human Rights



Harm Reduction
is a human right!



DECRIM & DRUGS IN HOSPITAL

What to expect during your visit
*a guide for people who use drugs,
by people who use drugs.*



You are allowed to have up to 2.5 g of drugs while in hospital. In hospital these are called “personal belongings”.



You do not need to stop using drugs to receive medical care, unless the doctor has a specific medical reason.*



You have the right to refuse treatment for your drug use & you should be included in decisions about your care.**



Staff are still learning & might not have as much experience or knowledge on drug use as you do. We are trying to learn.



You are NOT allowed to sell or share drugs while in hospital, or have more than 2.5 g. This is still illegal.



IH is a SMOKE-FREE environment. This means you can't light up in your room, or anywhere else on IH property.



Staff should NOT remove your belongings (including your drugs) or search you without your consent.**



Staff should NOT throw away your belongings without your permission. If we stored your stuff we MUST return it to you.

*******There are some circumstances where patient consent is not required to provide care or remove belongings. These are difficult situations where we strive to uphold both a patient's rights & the safety of everyone involved.*

******If you feel that you need to use your drugs while in hospital, please share this with your care team so we can include your substance needs in your care plan!*

What is available to help with my drug use while I am here?

Options vary from hospital to hospital, but may include harm reduction supplies, help with withdrawal (detox), prescribed supply, Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT), & referrals to other types of treatment.

The hospital may have a Substance Use Connections Team or access to an Addictions Medicine Specialist that you can request a consultation with.

Ask your care team what is available at this hospital!



I know I'm in a hospital, but I really need to use...

Let staff know if you are struggling with cravings or are worried about withdrawal. We may have some ideas to help!

If you decide to use your own drugs, ask staff where you can go. We may want to talk about safety with you due to the toxicity of the street supply.