

ILLICIT DRUGS AT HOME

What to expect during home visits

*a guide for people who use drugs,
by people who use drugs & allies.*



You do not need to be abstinent from drugs or alcohol in order to receive home health services or home visits.



You may be asked to wait to consume drugs or alcohol until *after* the home visit, if the substance interferes with your care.



You are expected to put away all drugs and drug use supplies. Please do this prior to a home visit.



You are expected to clean any surfaces that were used to prepare or consume drugs. Please do this prior to a home visit.



Staff need a **smoke-free** work space. Please refrain from smoking or vaping tobacco or cannabis indoors for 1 hour before the visit & 2 hours for illicit drugs.



Please do not use alcohol, cannabis, tobacco or illicit drugs *during* the home visit. If you need to use, please let staff know and they can reschedule.



Staff should **NOT** handle any of your drugs or used supplies.

They **will not** report your drug use to the police.



Staff don't know it all. This is a new area for us & we are still learning.

We might not have as much experience or knowledge on drug use as you do.

*Please let your Main Contact Person know if you are having difficulty with any of the above. We are here to help problem solve, and find solutions that work for you and align with your goals.



Interior Health

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

We get that it can feel uncomfortable to be asked about drugs - let us explain:

We want to make sure we understand all relevant health information and ask people about this as a part of regular care planning. Whether you use a little, a lot, or not at all in your home, we want to support you to live as independently and safely as possible.

We understand that this is *your home* and we respect that you may choose to use substances here. Some substances may pose a risk to staff, so we need to work together to make sure your home is safe for us to be in.

Too many people are dying from the Toxic Drug Crisis. We care about your health & wellbeing; we're here to help!

Use your cell phone's camera to scan this QR code for information on substance use support,



Your Experience Matters

If you feel you were treated poorly or stigmatized due to your drug use, please report it to:



Interior Health's
Patient Care
Quality Office



BC Office
of Human Rights



What is available to help with my drug use?

We recognize that substance use is a part of your overall health & want to ensure that your substance use needs are reflected in your care plan.

Although our area of expertise is providing home health services, we can help with referrals to substance use supports, such as Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT), accessing harm reduction supplies, substance use counselling & other types of treatment.

Ask your Main Contact Person about what is available in your community!



I know I can't use during the home visit, but I am really struggling...

Let us know if you are struggling with cravings or are worried about withdrawal. We do not want your substance use to become a barrier that keeps you from receiving the home health services you need.

Please share your concerns with your Main Contact Person, who can help you problem solve and find a solution that works for you!

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



Substance use care is health care!

