

## 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

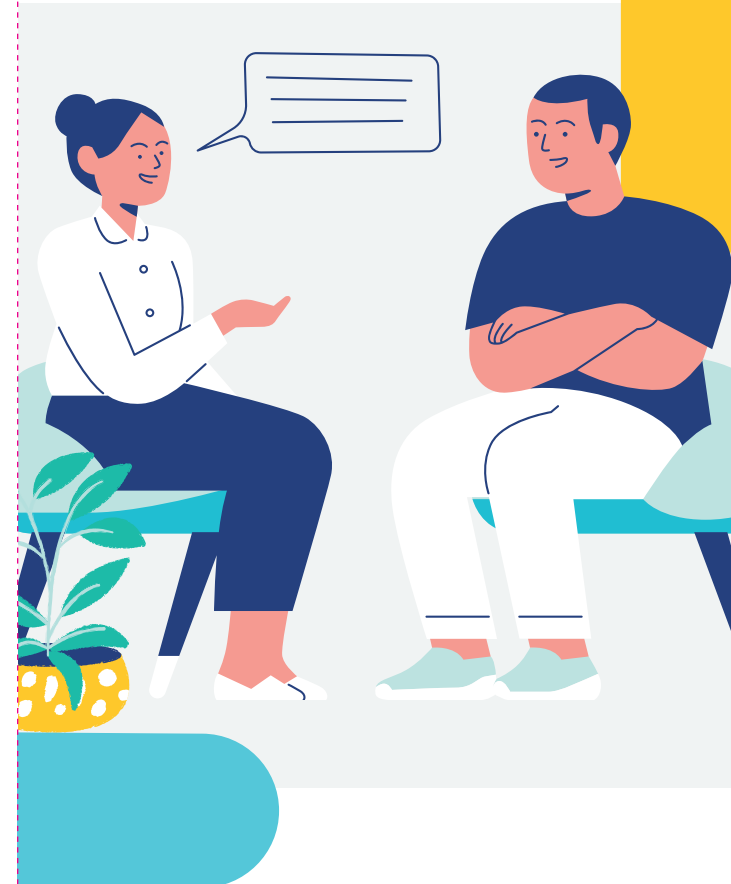


Substance Use Care  
is Health Care!

823172 Jan 20-26



Interior Health



## Illicit Drugs in Hospital

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



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 medical support in managing your addiction while at the hospital.



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



You may temporarily leave the hospital to use your drugs offsite.\*

\* 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."



You are NOT allowed to have or use your drugs in hospital unless you are in an overdose prevention site (OPS).\*\*



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 search or remove your belongings without your consent unless they have a specific safety reason.\*\*



Staff CANNOT store your drugs. If your drugs are removed they will NOT be returned to you.

\*\* Having or using illicit drugs in the hospital, outside of an OPS, may result in your drugs being removed and destroyed.

## 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...

If you are comfortable, let staff know that 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.