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| <b>Title</b><br>"They have been drinking." Part 2 | <b>Date</b><br>04/19/2019         |
| <b>CDE Number</b><br>M-1904007                    | <b>CDE Credit Hours</b><br>.5 HRS |

What protocol is used when the reporting party only says, "They had too much to drink and need to go to the hospital?" To this point, we have handled this under Protocol 23 to address the scene safety concerns that commonly accompany intoxicated patients. However, in the visually impaired environment that we work in, how can we tell if they truly are having an alcohol overdose or having another medical emergency?

We can accomplish this by addressing the patient's symptoms. If they have not provided any other information that could help us to select a Chief Complaint, a great clarifying question to ask is, "What kind of symptoms is he/she having?" For example, if they are drunk and in and out of consciousness, then we will process the call on Protocol 31: Unconscious/Fainting. We do not want to move past, "Okay, tell me exactly what happened," until there is a clear pathway in mind. If nothing fits, then this will be a "sick person" call.





This can get kind of confusing when speaking to a 1<sup>st</sup> party caller. What do we do when the patient calls and just says "I have been drinking"? Often times people call in to tell us they have had too much to drink and need to go to detox. When speaking to a 1<sup>st</sup> party caller, we want to address THEIR Chief Complaint. If they just want to be transported to sober up then there is an option for "transport only" on Protocol 26. However, if symptoms are mentioned, then we need to chose the Chief Complaint that best addresses that symptom.

### **Where would you go?**

Scenario 1:

"My husband and I were coming home from the bar and he fell down a flight of stairs. His head is bleeding really badly!"

Chief Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Scenario 2:

"I'm an alcoholic and I have been drinking. I really need to go to detox."

Chief Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Scenario 3:

"I have had too much to drink. I think I have alcohol poisoning. My chest hurts and I'm throwing up."

Chief Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_



Scenario 4:

"There is a guy outside my store who is really drunk. I asked him to leave but he asked me to call him an ambulance because his head hurts. He is really drunk though. He is slurring his words and has loss of balance and coordination."

Chief Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Scenario 5:

"My buddy came home from the bar and has had way too much to drink. He's passed out on the floor in the living room."

Chief Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_



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I verify that I read and am familiar with the contents of this document.

Please return this to your agency's training coordinator for CDE credit. If you have any questions please contact us at [911training@elpasoteller911.org](mailto:911training@elpasoteller911.org)

X \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_

**DATE**

X \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name**

X \_\_\_\_\_

**Agency**



## **ANSWER KEY**

Scenario 1:

"My husband and I were coming home from the bar and he fell down a flight of stairs. His head is bleeding really badly!"

Chief Complaint: **Protocol 17: Falls**

Scenario 2:

"I'm an alcoholic and I have been drinking. I really need to go to detox."

Chief Complaint: **Protocol 26: Sick Person**

Scenario 3:

"I have had too much to drink. I think I have alcohol poisoning. My chest hurts and I'm throwing up."

Chief Complaint: **Protocol 10: Chest Pain**

Scenario 4:

"There is a guy outside my store who is really drunk. I asked him to leave but he asked me to call him an ambulance because his head hurts. He is really drunk though. He is slurring his words and has loss of balance and coordination."

Chief Complaint: **Protocol 28: Stroke**

Scenario 5:

"My buddy came home from the bar and has had way too much to drink. He's passed out on the floor in the living room."

Chief Complaint: Protocol 31: **Unconscious/Fainting (Near)**