**STUDENTS ATTENDING ST GEORGE’S EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

Most SGUL students live and work in SW17 and may require at some time to attend the St George’s Emergency Department (ED). Students who attend the ED will get the same treatment as other patients attending. They will not be seen faster, nor will they be subjected to any criticism or negative treatment because they are health care students.

As the Student Union premises are within the campus, students may go to Emergency Department direct from an evening social event, sometimes after they have drunk quite a lot of alcohol. Occasionally there has been friction between students and ED staff, either because a member of staff objects to treating a student who is clearly drunk, or because the student unfortunately behaves in an obstreperous or offensive manner. We should like to ensure that there is clarity between the Trust and university about how the Trust will treat any student who seeks treatment.

**Assessment and Treatment**

Students who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be offered assessment and treatment in the same way, and to the same standard, as any other intoxicated patient. They will not be threatened with disclosure to the university or the Principal.

**Offensive, aggressive or violent behaviour from students**

Students will be treated in the same way as any other patient, and the threshold for tolerating offensive behaviour will be the same as for other patients. They will normally be given assessment and treatment unless there is a danger to staff or other patients. In that case, as with any other patient, security or the police may be called to remove or arrest the student who may be charged with a criminal offence.

**Confidentiality**

The Trust would not expect to inform a patient’s employer about their illness or about intoxicated or offensive behaviour, and the university will not be informed by Trust staff either about a student’s medical condition or about misbehaviour. As with any other patient, if the attending doctor has reason to be concerned that the student has a serious alcohol dependency, he or she will be advised to seek specialist help, and will be offered confidential referral to Occupational Health.

Students should be aware, however, that the university’s *General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study* require a student on a professional course who is charged with an offence to inform the university if they receive a criminal conviction, bind over or caution or are the subject of a police investigation. All medical students are additionally aware of the General Medical Council’s “*Professional behaviours expected of medical students*”.

**Students who inadvertently see or meet another student in the Emergency Department**

A student on placement in the ED department or a student who is attending as a patient may come into contact with another student attending. In this situation the contact must be treated as confidential. It is not the responsibility of a student to inform the university either about another student’s health problems, or about misbehaviour.

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