



Table 1: Alcohol Hangover (F10.120)

- Poorly defined but universally understood; occurs the morning after a night of heavy drinking.
- In general, starts <12 hours after a binge of <24 hours.
- Sx: fatigue, thirst, headache, nausea, concentration problems, apathy, loss of appetite, dizziness, vomiting, heart pounding/racing.
- Requirements: HR<130, BP<160/100, RR<24, T<100.4, ambulatory, GCS=15, appropriate history, no tremor, no anxiety, no significant comorbidities.

Table 2: Inpatient Criteria

- CIWA>12, despite treatment with PB/BZD.
- Requiring high-dose sedatives or IV infusion to maintain CIWA<12.
- GCS<8 or hemodynamic instability.
- Persistent hyperthermia (T>100.4 F).
- Respiratory insufficiency (hypoxia, hypercapnia, etc.).
- Marked acid-base disturbance.
- Cardiac disease (heart failure, arrhythmia, evidence of ischemia, etc.).
- Severe electrolyte abnormality.
- Severe renal insufficiency or requiring high volume fluids.
- Evidence of rhabdomyolysis.
- Potentially serious infection (PNA, wounds, etc.).
- Severe GI pathology (GI bleed, pancreatitis, etc.).
- Severe psychomotor agitation (high risk to self or others, gravely disabled, etc.).
- Evidence concerning for Wernicke-Korsakoff Syndrome (oculomotor dysfunction, ataxia, severe malnutrition).
- Withdrawal despite very elevated serum ethanol.

Table 3: Phenobarbital Contraindications

- Absolute: Hx allergy, adverse reactions, or porphyria
- Relative: current significant sedative level (including EtOH, BZD, or anti-psychotics)

Table 4: Phenobarbital (PB) Protocol

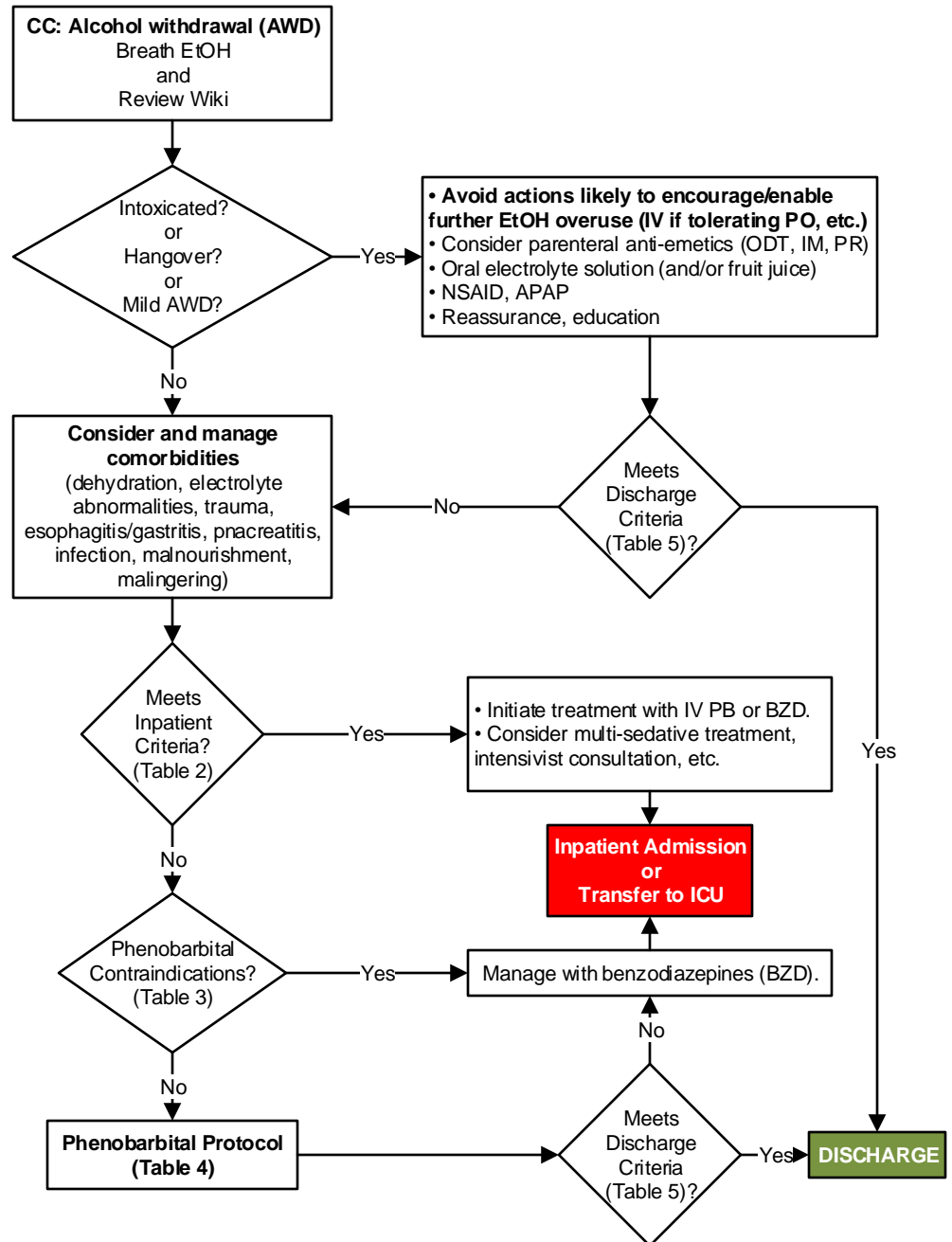
- Phenobarbital 260 mg IV then phenobarbital 130 mg IV every 30-40 minutes until CIWA score ≤ 12. No discharge meds.
OR (for very large/small patients)
- Phenobarbital 4 mg/kg IV (rounded to nearest 130 mg) then phenobarbital 2 mg/kg IV every 30 minutes until CIWA score ≤ 12. No discharge meds.
OR
- Either of the above via IM injection, with subsequent doses very 60-90 minutes.

- Adverse Effects:
- Transient asymptomatic hypotension
 - Transient ataxia
 - Transient lethargy

Table 5: Discharge Criteria

- No inpatient criteria present (Table 2).
- CIWA score <12.
- Awakens to voice or light touch.
- Oriented with no delirium.
- Ambulatory without assistance.
- Taking liquids without vomiting.
- No co-administered sedatives/anti-psychotics.
- No seizures after treatment.
- Likely compliant with important outpatient medications (including antibiotics, etc.).

Please see the Wiki for more information:
[Alcohol Withdrawal in the YK Delta Phenobarbital for Alcohol Withdrawal](#)



This guideline is designed for the general use of most patients but may need to be adapted to meet the special needs of a specific patient as determined by the medical practitioner.
Approved by Clinical Guideline Committee 10/21/22.
If comments about this guideline, please contact Clinical_Guidelines@ykhc.org.