

18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Head of Department/ Head of ED Nursing  
Emergency Dept

### **WA Police 'Drink-Spiking' Initiative**

This is a new initiative by WA Police (WAPOL) that will begin in late 2022. Drink spiking is defined as anyone who believes that they have been given a stupefying substance without their consent.

#### **Background information**

There have recently been several significant (4+) police cases in Western Australia, where some serial offenders have sexually assaulted multiple victims (10-20+) via a 'drink-spiking'. These victims had suspected that they had been "drink spiked" but did not have any recollection of the event. Several victims presented to medical services but did not get access to forensic testing. Other victims did suspect a sexual assault and were seen at in ED and then SARC (Sexual Assault Resource Centre) and this provided particularly useful forensic evidence.

This initiative will give a more streamlined approach to anyone who presents to medical services/EDs with suspected drink spiking.

This pathway will only apply for people who:

1. Do not require medical attention related to the "drink-spiking" or otherwise,
2. Have been discharged from hospital following treatment,
3. Do not suspect that any form of sexual assault has occurred whilst incapacitated as these patients will continue to be referred to SARC.

Patients can present to any 24-hour police station state-wide and give a urine sample which will be analysed for any stupefying drugs.

If the patient does require medical attention, a toxicology blood sample can be taken as per clinical protocol (EDTA tube) with Toxicology blood.

[https://healthpoint.hdwa.health.wa.gov.au/policies/Policies/EMHS/RPH/ED%20Patients%20Presenting%20with%20Recreational%20Drug%20Intoxication%20Clinical%20Guideline%20\(RPH\).pdf](https://healthpoint.hdwa.health.wa.gov.au/policies/Policies/EMHS/RPH/ED%20Patients%20Presenting%20with%20Recreational%20Drug%20Intoxication%20Clinical%20Guideline%20(RPH).pdf).

When they have been discharged, they can present to the police station to have a urine test done, fill out a consent form for release of Toxicology blood results.

We hope to gain some objective evidence of what harm "drink spiking" is causing in our community

**What we are seeking is your support to inform patients who present to Emergency Departments with suspected drink spiking to present to their local 24-hour police station and a list of which will be provided to you.**

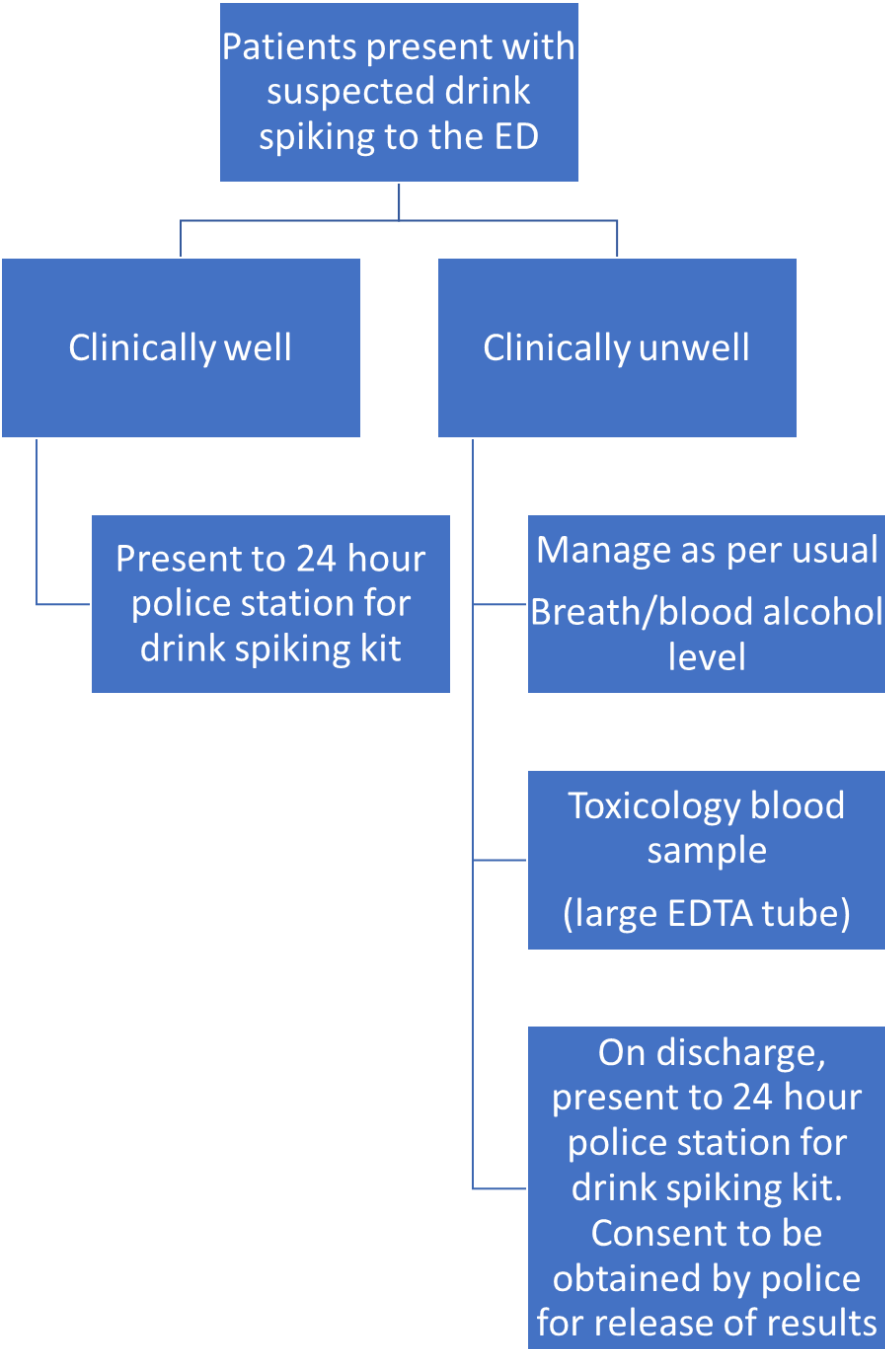
**We are here to assist with any queries or concerns or any educational requirements.**

Regards,

Dr Jessamine Soderstrom  
Deputy HOD Royal Perth Hospital

Dr Kim Farrington  
Co- HOD SARC, King Edward Hospital

**Proposed Flowchart for Presentation of Drink-Spiking to Emergency Department**



## **2021-22 Media on Drink-Spiking**

[https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-01-28/man-accused-of-drugging-and-sexually-assaulting-perth-women/100787090?utm\\_campaign=abc\\_news\\_web&utm\\_content=link&utm\\_medium=content\\_shared&utm\\_source=abc\\_news\\_web](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-01-28/man-accused-of-drugging-and-sexually-assaulting-perth-women/100787090?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web)

<https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/more-charges-laid-against-perth-dentist-accused-of-drink-spiking-tinder-dates-20220414-p5adfu.html>

[Student's stark warning after drink spiked with date rape drug at Perth house party \(watoday.com.au\)](#)

[https://www.abc.net.au/everyday/my-drink-was-spiked-reporting-difficult/100407588?utm\\_campaign=abc\\_everyday&utm\\_content=link&utm\\_medium=content\\_share\\_d&utm\\_source=abc\\_everyday](https://www.abc.net.au/everyday/my-drink-was-spiked-reporting-difficult/100407588?utm_campaign=abc_everyday&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_share_d&utm_source=abc_everyday)