

providing transportation may be adopted. If a patient has left the center against medical advice he may be readmitted at the discretion of the medical officer in charge of the center, and he may not be denied readmission solely because he left against medical advice.

305. Outpatient and Aftercare Treatment.

(a) A chronic alcoholic shall be encouraged to consent to outpatient and aftercare treatment for his illness at the types of facilities, and utilizing the broad spectrum of services, provided for under Section 302 (a) (3) of this chapter.

(1) Any person may voluntarily request admission to outpatient treatment.

(2) (a) Because of the nature and seriousness of the disease a chronic alcoholic must be expected to relapse into intoxication one or more times after the onset of therapy. No alcoholic shall be dropped from outpatient treatment solely because of such relapses. All reasonable methods of treatment should be used to prevent their recurrence.

(b) There are some chronic alcoholics for whom recovery is unlikely. For these, supportive services and residential facilities shall be provided so that they may survive in a decent manner.

(c) All public and private community efforts, including but not limited to welfare services, vocational rehabilitation, and job replacement, shall be utilized as part of the treatment programs to integrate chronic alcoholics back into society as productive citizens.

(d) If a patient has withdrawn from outpatient treatment against medical advice he may be readmitted at the discretion of the medical officer in charge of outpatient treatment. He may not be denied readmission solely because he withdrew against medical advice.

306. Civil Commitment.

(a) A judge of the Circuit Court in Equity, trial magistrate, substitute trial magistrate or judge of the People's Court of the County in which a detoxification unit is located, or of the County wherein the patient resides, or, if he has no residence, the County from which he came to the unit, or a judge of the Circuit Court or Municipal Court of Baltimore City as the case may be, on a petition of the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, or his delegate, or on a petition of the governing body of a subdivision, or its delegate, if the detoxification unit is a local government facility, filed and heard before the 5 day period of detention for detoxification expires, may order a person to be temporarily committed further for detoxification or for inpatient treatment and care for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of admission to a detoxification unit if, sitting without a jury, he determines that the person (1) is a chronic alcoholic, and as a result of chronic or acute intoxication is (2) in immediate danger of substantial physical harm and (3) unable to make a rational decision about accepting assistance. A patient so committed shall be released without the necessity of court permission as soon as, in the judgment of the medical officer in charge of the facility wherein he is detained, he is once again able to make a rational decision about accepting assistance, unless he chooses voluntarily to remain. He shall be encouraged to consent to further treatment and rehabilitation.