POLICY & PROCEDURE NUMBER: 1.10
DEPARTMENT: *Program and Therapy Services* **SUBJECT:** ***Alcohol***

APPROVAL DATE: April 2004 **REVISION DATE: May 2017**
REVIEW DATE: October 2018

PURPOSE:

To ensure the safety of all residents in the Home. To ensure the safe consumption of alcohol and avoid any reaction, interaction or abuse.

PROCEDURE:

1. A physician order is required for alcoholic beverages to be dispensed by registered staff.

2. A member of the multidisciplinary team (i.e. physician, registered staff, pharmacist, dietitian, BSO team, social worker, etc.) may recommend if a resident should not consume alcohol and will discuss concerns/provide health teaching to the resident. The discussion will be documented under progress notes in the resident's chart. Registered nursing staff will reinforce health teaching as required.

3. Alcohol (excluding social hour program) will be purchased by the resident or family member and given to registered staff for safe storage. Residents may not store alcohol in his/her room.

4. Alcohol must be kept in a locked area – i.e. Medication room.

6. Alcohol must be for the use of the resident only, and not given to other residents/visitors, as a safety measure to prevent drug and illness interactions.

7. Alcohol consumption will be permitted in designated areas of the home only – i.e. alcohol purchased at social hour program will be consumed at social hour program and alcohol ordered by physician and dispensed by registered nursing staff will be consumed in the resident's room.

8. The multidisciplinary team will monitor residents for any health or behaviour issues as part of the ongoing resident assessment. An example of an incident could include:

- swerving when driving power wheelchair
- running into furniture, walls, people
- physical or verbal aggression to staff, residents, visitors
- postural changes (e.g. slumping over in chair)
- decreased level of alertness
- uncooperative in following instructions
- Sick, vomiting, etc.

Any such occurrences will be reported to the Registered Nursing staff, documented on the resident's record and reported to the physician. The multidisciplinary team (OT, PT, Social Worker, Registered staff, BSO team, Physician, etc.) will address situations where alcohol is deemed to be causing significant risk and an intervention plan shall be implemented and discussed with the resident.

9. Residents who display inappropriate behaviours believed to be attributed to the consumption of alcohol will be reminded of the Homes' policy related to Civil, Respectful Interactions and the Violence in the Workplace policy.

10. The County of Elgin recognizes the right of each resident to make choices regarding their consumption of alcohol. It is also recognized that there can be serious risk when combining Alcohol and the use of power wheelchairs. The risks are not limited to, but can include harm to the resident, other residents, and/or property. Examples of incidents are outlined above in #8. A referral to OT/PT for assessment regarding use of the power wheelchair related to alcohol consumption will be initiated. It may be appropriate for the registered nursing staff to disconnect the power wheelchair until the referral can be completed to ensure safety of all residents and staff.

11. Reference also: Program and Therapy Policy 1.9 – Social Hour Program