

Medical detoxification

The term Medical Detox refers to **the process of safely managing the acute physical symptoms of withdrawal using medication.**

Medical detox is indicated when withdrawal symptoms are judged to be potentially dangerous to the client, whether because of the severity of withdrawal or because of secondary or co-existing health conditions. There is a threshold beyond which safety to the client supersedes all other concerns, and it is mainly determined by the amount of alcohol or drugs consumed on a chronic basis as well as the length of time the dependency has been established. The more critical the physical dependency, the greater the risk of withdrawal symptoms posing physical danger to the client.

Medical detoxification **safely manages the acute physical symptoms of withdrawal** associated with stopping drug use. However, medical detoxification is only the first stage of addiction treatment and by itself does little to change long-term drug use. Although detoxification alone is rarely sufficient to help addicts achieve long-term abstinence, for some individuals it is a strongly indicated precursor to effective drug addiction treatment.

If a person is dependent/addicted to opioids like OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet, oxycodone or methadone or to an opiate like heroin, the withdrawal may not be life-threatening, but it is usually so painful that the U. S. government estimates that 95% of the people who try to stop taking these opioids on their own fail to complete their withdrawal. To address the safety issue and the discomfort/pain issues of drug and alcohol withdrawal, many people are turning to medical detox at Jorgs Harm Reduction Centre.

Our medical detox protocol does not have “one size fits all” procedures, but instead it provides procedures to ensure that each patient is most comfortably and safely detoxed from the alcohol or drug.

For example, the standard medical protocol for an alcoholic utilizes a drug that is given to eliminate the seizure risk. Once the person is no longer a seizure risk, the person should be given less of the drug each day until they are no longer taking the drug.

In addition, a person withdrawing from alcohol or an opioid is normally very dehydrated, and a good medical detox protocol will address this. They are normally vitamin- and mineral-depleted, and a good medical detox protocol will also address this. They may experience other withdrawal symptoms that will make their detox very uncomfortable if not handled.

INPATIENT

During medical detox at Jorgs facilities the person is under medical supervision for 24 hours a day. If a client has a problem during their detox, the problem can be addressed and handled instantly, this way the detox can go much faster and it is normal for people to complete their withdrawal from alcohol or other drugs in between 7-14 days.