*Addiction Treatment Services Unit (ATSU)

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Acting Charge Nurse

*ATSU is an 6-bed assessment, detoxification and early rehabilitation substance use disorder treatment unit in the Department of Psychiatry at the University Hospital of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica.

*In the 1980's persons who use drugs were treated on the psychiatric unit (ward 21) prior to the opening of the Detox unit.

*The Detoxification Unit, now named ATSU, was opened in 1991 by the then Prime Minister the Hon. Michael Manley.

*It is the only hospital based drug treatment facility, providing treatment for substance misusers, adults and adolescents, males and females, throughout Jamaica.

- *The duration of the program is presently 3 weeks.
- *Provisions are made for persons with co-morbidities (4 weeks)

- *Consultant Psychiatrist
- *Patient care and overall operation of unit
- *Psychologist
- *Therapeutic and psychoeducational components

*Staff Profile

- *Nurse
- *Patient care
- *Social worker
- *Psycho-education, family, school and home interventions
- *Resident Psychiatrist

*Staff Profile

- *Medical and psychiatric management of patient
- *Psychiatric aide
- *Secretary
- *Art therapist

*Staff Profile

- *Safe withdrawal
- *Address psychological and physical withdrawal (medication use where applicable)
- *Physical and Psychiatric assessment to identify and treat co-morbid illnesses

*Aims of ATSU

- *Psychological evaluationidentify personality disorders and assist self change
- *Facilitate period of respite from social chaos and exposure to drugs

*Aims of ATSU

*The treatment program is geared towards helping individuals identify and mobilize his/her internal and external resources and use them to achieve a happier, healthier lifestyle free of mind altering drugs.

*Aims of ATSU

- *Educational group activities geared at:-
 - *Understanding self
 - *Understanding illness
 - *Understanding responsibilities (e.g. social)



- *Individual Psychotherapy
- *Individual Nurse-client interaction



- *Daily schedule of activities include:-
 - *Art therapy
 - *Family day session
 - *Narcotics anonymous meeting
 - *Groups- refusal skills, safe sex practices
 - *Outdoor activities (football)



- *Admissions are voluntary (self-motivated)
- *Consenting adults
- *Adolescents consented by parent/guardians

*Admission to the Unit

- *Referrals via the accident and emergency unit
- *Detox clinics:-

new patient clinic

dual diagnosis clinic

*Psychiatric unit (ward 21)



Admission to the Unit

- *Referrals from other:-
- *wards
- *hospitals
- *treatment facilities
- *Places of safety
- *Courts system (mostly adolescents)

*Admission to the Unit

- *New Patient Clinic
- *Follow-up Clinic
- *Drug free Clinic
- *Dual Diagnosis Clinic
- *Adolescent (18 and below)
 Outpatient Substance Abuse
 Programme

*Other services

- *Referral to:-
- *long, medium or short term residential rehabilitation programs.
- *community psychiatric outpatient clinic.

*Other Services

*Outreach programmes, including school and community psycho-educational talks.

*Other Services