

COVID-19 “Best Practice” Response for Survivors of Sexual Assault

1. Patient arrives at the hospital.
2. Provide the patient a private waiting space if a room is not available.
 - a. If English is not the patient's first language, bring in the language line immediately.
3. Assess the patient for immediate medical needs and address accordingly.
4. Connect the patient with the advocate via NWCASA hotline (**888-802-8890**)
 - a. SASETA states that the victim present in the hospital has the legal right to work with an advocate. Please do your best to facilitate this connection, the advocates are in charge of obtaining consent from victims directly
 - b. The advocate will review the evidence collection kit consent form and discuss reporting options, voucher, and all other options available at the hospital.
 - c. The nurse should also discuss consent sheet with patient as they are filling it out and determine next steps, although the advocate has already explained options
5. Discuss the process of the evidence collection kit with the patient and confirm the choice made from the consent form.
6. Evaluate for toxicology.
 - a. Use the separate “Consent for Toxicology” sheet found on the Illinois State Police website: <https://isp.illinois.gov/Forensics/Forms>
7. Complete evidence collection kit, explaining and obtaining consent from the patient before each step
8. Provide patient with information on STI's, prophylaxis and emergency contraception both verbally and in written format (provided in kit).
9. Complete discharge paperwork.
 - a. Including information on Crime Victims Compensation
 - b. Provide patient with NWCASA packet
 - c. Voucher (if applicable)
 - d. Kit Number (aka K Number) to track kit
 - i. K Number can be found on the bottom of the kit
 - ii. Follow hospital instructions for registering the kit and assigning to patient
10. Connect the patient with law enforcement if applicable. You have 4 hours from the end of evidence collection/patient visit to contact the police.
 - a. If victim chooses Option B (Healthcare Provider report) or Option C (does not report to law enforcement), it is recommended that you contact law enforcement once the patient has been discharged

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Consent Options
 - **Photography:**
 - Patient must consent OR decline to forensic photography. Photography must be offered by the hospital as this is part of SASETA. Client can choose what they would like photographed. All photos must be taken by a hospital owned device and secured in patient's medical record.
 - **Option A:**
 - Patient is choosing to speak to law enforcement directly. Call law enforcement as you near the end of your evidence collection if they did not arrive with them.
 - **Option B:**
 - Patient is choosing to have healthcare provider give law enforcement information about the assault. It is recommended you (nurse) use the narrative taken on **page 2** of the Evidence Collection Kit paperwork.
 - It is recommended that you call law enforcement after the patient has been discharged.
 - **Option C:**
 - Patient is declining police involvement at this time. The patient's name should not be on any paperwork that is going to law enforcement, including on the outside of the kit. Make sure you (nurse) still obtain a report number despite the patient remaining anonymous.
 - It is recommended that you call law enforcement after the patient has been discharged.
- Calling the NWCASA Hotline (888-802-8890) after a patient has left the hospital is not compliant with the MOU in place between Hospital and NWCASA
- The patient needs to be provided all the above information in their native language. Bring in your respective language line immediately when applicable.
- NWCASA advocates are intended to be of assistance to the patient and medical staff. Please remember to ask for support from advocates when necessary.
- **You should be obtaining a police report number & K number for every patient, even if they remain anonymous.**