

Victims Needing Emergent Care in Community-Based Settings

**SART Listserv
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Issue: Protocols for victims needing emergent care at community-based medical forensic exam sites.

Background: For the non-hospital based programs that offer adult forensic exams on site, are there protocols for injured victims who require immediate medical attention? For example, do you or are you able to transport the victim to a medical facility? Do you ever encounter this situation?

Colorado (Evergreen)

- Transporting a victim to the ED would depend on the type of facility where the patient presents. Is it an Advocacy Center? An Urgent Care Center? A SARC? A University or College Campus Clinic? A Family Practice? A Nurses Clinic?
- Most cases of sexual assault do not require an emergency room visit as there is not an immediate threat of life or loss of limb.
- In our jurisdiction, staff members do not transport victims to the ED due to liability issues. If patients require a higher level of care than can be provided at the present location, a transfer is facilitated by ambulance or air, unless the patient signs an AMA with waiver.

Michigan (Battle Creek)

- Our nurse will triage the call for service to determine if the patient meets our program criteria.
- If the SANE identifies medical/psychological needs that require immediate evaluation after meeting the patient, the patient is transported by ambulance to the local emergency department (ED).
- Our SANE and advocate may accompany or follow the patient to the ED where the medical forensic exam could be done as the other needs are being addressed.
- Our SANE and/or advocates do not transport patients.