SAFE Protocol

Are YOU up to date??

National Sexual Assault Conference 2014
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Welcome!

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WHO ARE YOU??
Learning Objectives

- Recognize the purpose of the National Protocol for Sexual Assault Forensic Exams 2nd Edition
- Discuss the recommendations and special issues for older, disabled, LGBTQ and military victims.
- Identify the hallmarks of the recommendations for pregnancy and STI treatment.
- Understand the impacts of legislative changes on the 2nd Edition of the Protocol.

The Purpose of the Protocol

Recommended vs. Required

Recommended

Required
Purposes of the Protocol

- To address the needs of victims while promoting the criminal justice response
- To promote high quality, sensitive and supportive examinations for victims
- To promote timely, high quality evidence collection

The Protocol

- National Protocol
- Overarching Issues
- Operational Issues
- Examination Process

Summary of changes

- Definitions
- One Exam
- QA/MSE
- Patient Options
- Documentation
- Treatment Updates
- Updates on Timing and techniques
- Confidentiality
- Caring for special populations
- DFSA
Overarching issues changes

- The Exam
- Quality assurance
- Medical screening exams
- Victims with special needs
- Civil attorneys
- Confidentiality
- Reporting to law enforcement
- Exam payment
- Victim centered care

The medical forensic exam is:

Purpose: Address the healthcare needs and collect evidence when appropriate

Quality Assurance

Review of active and resolved cases provides opportunities for improvement of:
- Individuals
- Teams as a whole
How many of you are doing routine quality assurance?

Recommendations- victim centered care

- Medical screening exam
- Victims with disabilities and older victims
- Civil attorneys

Medical screening exam
Victims with disabilities

- Special considerations - perpetrators
- Older patients
- Evidence may speak for the patient when they are unable
- Respect patient choices for accompaniment by support persons
- Make exam adaptations as needed, including time considerations

Victims with limited English proficiency

- Assure exam access
- Develop policies and train responders to identify LEP and primary language
- Use demonstrable bilingual examiners and/or qualified interpreters
- Train interpreters in exam process/ethics/confidentiality
- U-Visa information

American Indian and Alaska native victims

- Be aware of tribal culture, heritage
- Develop MOU or coordinate with tribal agencies for sexual assault care
- Understand jurisdictional issues
- Incorporate culture, tradition in exam protocol, process
- Coordinate with tribe for advocacy, referrals for follow-up
LGBTQ

- Include transgender or intersex options on forms
- Always refer to patients by their name not using a pronoun, even when speaking to others
- Sexual orientation and gender identity are protected health information—subject to all confidentiality and privacy rules

Civil Attorneys role

- Privacy
- Safety
- Immigration
- Education
- Housing
- Employment
- Financial

Recommendations—confidentiality

- Confidentiality Details
- Military Exams
Confidentiality

- Advising patients of communication confidentiality limitations
- Awareness of limitations of community based and systems based advocacy responses

HIPPA

Permits hospitals and healthcare providers to alert advocacy agencies

"According to your HIPAA release form I can't share anything with you."

Military exams, confidentiality and reporting

- Reporting Options for Military victims
- Be aware of circumstances that may void restricted reporting
- MOU with civilian facilities
Polygraphs

Alternative reporting options
- Anonymous reporting
- Confidential reporting

Payment of the Exam and Access
- Exam access cannot be tied to participation in criminal justice system
- Conditions for STOP funds to pay for exams
- No requirement for insurance reimbursement
- Inform the patient of required reporting
- Tricare may cover exam costs for military victims
VAWA 2013
CAN bill insurance but NOT the patient at all- NO COPAY, NO VICTIM Bills- process needs to be reviewed, and changed if the bill normally gets to the patient

Recommendations: Evidence Integrity
- Timeframes
- Advances in the laboratory
- Storage of Evidence
Recommendations: Examination process

- Documentation
- The Medical Forensic History
- Photography
- A/DFSA
- Exam and Evidence Collection
- Pregnancy
- STI
- HIV
- Discharge and Follow-up

Documentation

- The Medical Forensic Record
- Documentation of care provided
- Record follows standardized approach
- Entire record can be used in justice proceedings as a component of the “case”
- Confidential storage of records

The medical forensic history

- Routinely include questions for possible A/DFSA
- Routinely ask about voluntary ingestion of alcohol and drugs
Photography

- Forensic Examiners should be the ones taking intimate photographs
- Photos should be primarily be considered as a part of the medical forensic record and should not be automatically turned over to law enforcement.

Alcohol AND Drug facilitated sexual assault

- Recognition of #1 drug of incapacitated rape
- Allow victims access to toxicology results

Evidence collection

- Follow the Medical Forensic History
- Purposes
- Techniques
Pregnancy evaluation and care
- Discuss the probability of pregnancy with the patient
- Administer a baseline pregnancy test for all patients with reproductive capability
- Discuss treatment options with patients
- Administer pregnancy prophylaxis as requested by the patient.

STI evaluation and care
- Offer patients information about risks of STI (including HIV), treatment options, testing and follow-up care and referral
- Consider testing for STI on a routine basis
- Encourage patients to accept prophylaxis against STI's at the time of the exam.
- Encourage and facilitate follow-up STI examinations, testing, immunizations and treatment.
- Offer post exposure prophylaxis against HIV to patients at high risk for exposure.

Basic recommendations re: HIV
- Specialist consultation if HIV exposure was possible and PEP is being considered
- The sooner started, the better
- If it is started, recommend 3-5 day supply of meds followed by counseling session
HIV PEP within 72 hours

• Assess for assailant risk
• Evaluate assault characteristics for risk
• **Consult with specialist if PEP is being considered**
• IF at risk, discuss PEP, including toxicity and lack of proven benefit
• **If start PEP, provide enough meds till f/u**
• CBC, Serum chemistry if PEP is chosen
• HIV testing then 6 weeks, 3mo, and 6mo

Discharge and follow-up

• Ensure that patients have information about post exam care.
• Include referrals to other professionals to make sure medical and mental health needs are met
• Advocates and law enforcement officials should coordinate with the examiners to discuss their issues for follow-up.
• **Who Holds the Key if there is no LE report??**

New!!

Appendix C

Impact of *Crawford v. Washington*, *Davis v. Washington* and *Giles v. California*
Recommendations for Administrators of Prisons, Jails, and Community Confinement Facilities for Adapting the U.S. Department of Justice’s A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/Adolescents

U.S. Department of Justice
Office on Violence Against Women

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Technical Assistance is available!

Helpline: 1-877-819-SART
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