

Section: Division of Nursing  
Approval: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\* **PROTOCOL** \*  
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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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ED  
(Scope)

**TITLE: SUSPECTED SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION DISPATCH OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM**

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**PURPOSE:** To assure the patient's professional treatment, provide emotional support, and obtain forensic evidence for use by the police to prosecute perpetrators.

To ensure a victim centered approach.

To define a protocol for dispatching the Warren County Sexual Assault Response Team.

**LEVEL:** Interdependent

**TRIAGE:** Urgent

Any patient (male or female) with c/o rape or suspected sexual assault, will be triaged by RN and escorted to the GYN room.

- **All patients age 13 or older** will be offered the opportunity to contact the rape care advocate through the office of The Domestic Abuse and Rape Crisis Center (DARCC).
- The victim should be given privacy.
- The Emergency Department Staff must contact the rape care advocate.
- Contacting the rape care advocate will activate the members of the Warren County Sexual Assault Response Team. The telephone number for contacting the advocate is (908) 453-4181.

**INTERVENTIONS:**

- Keep triage note to a minimum. Do not ask the patient details regarding the rape.
- Do not allow the patient to eat, drink or urinate, if possible.
- The Emergency Department staff will continue to provide support to the victim until the team arrives.
- The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner will obtain a detailed history of the assault as well as collect forensic specimens if necessary.
- All victims of suspected sexual assault will be offered prophylaxis for pregnancy and STD's. These medications will be given as ordered by the Emergency Department Physician.
- The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner will follow the protocols developed in The New Jersey Standards for Providing Services to Survivors of Sexual Assault as developed by The Department of Law and Public Safety and The Division of Criminal Justice.
- The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner will document exam/findings for patient's medical record.
- The ED medical and nursing staff is responsible for examining victims of sexual assault who are **<13 years of age**. Medical examinations for children suspected of being sexually abused may also be referred to Dr. Eugene Decker at Coventry Family Practice, as per prior agreement with The Warren County Prosecutor's Office. All suspected sexual abuse of children is to be reported to DYFS at 908-689-7000 or 1-800-792-8610.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE FORM**

- SART is a team that consists of an on call sexual assault nurse, on call detective and a specially trained rape care advocate.
- If the victim asks what value is the team to me (victim)? Let them know that the nurse on call can call them back or

Name of Dispatcher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time of Call: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is the Victim, regardless of gender, 13 or over? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did the sexual assault occur within the last five days? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
3. Does the victim consent to activation of the SART Team?

(These are the questions the SANE or dispatcher will ask.)

Questions or comments can be directed to:

Lois Dawn Magill-Verdi, RN, FN-CSA, SANE Program Coordinator  
Home Number: 908-453-4637  
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