

Guidelines for Medical Personnel

For Adult Survivors

1. Offer psychological support, calm the patient down if necessary and record the date the patients comes in, name and gender of the patient as well as the name of the person who brought the patient.
2. Greet the patient and engage in conversation so victims are comfortable in the surroundings before treatment is performed. Assure the victim that what they say is confidential.
3. Before conducting medical tests explain the nature of the tests and get informed consent from the patient.
4. Be as flexible as possible on medical tests to adopt the patients requests and needs.
5. Contact organisations which provide counseling for victims in order to make sure they have psychological support from professionals before, during and after medical examination.
6. Be aware and sensitive to special considerations a victim may have based on their cultural and religious background. Their assault can have implications on marriage and how family members and the community treat them. Assure them of their right to confidentiality.
7. Elderly victims of sexual abuse should be treated with extra caution as they can have life threatening injuries from the abuse and medical services should be easily accessible to them.
8. Account for additional time for victims with disabilities.
9. If a victim has previously experienced domestic violence try and arrange a safe place for the victim to stay after the exam is finished and the victim is ready to leave the facility.
10. Victims should have access to emergency treatment, if required contraceptives should be given within 72 hours of the assault.
11. Make sure a Post-exposure hepatitis B vaccination (without HBIG) is given to the victim in order to prevent HBV infection. This should be immediately given to patients after the assault if they already have not been vaccinated. More doses are required after 2 and 6 months after the first dose.
12. If signs of sexually transmitted diseases are present, swabs should be taken
13. Call the closest sexual assault center once a victim goes to the emergency department
14. Discuss medical findings with investigators, lawyers and prosecutors when requested, however maintain confidentiality agreed with patient
15. All treatment should be free of cost.
16. The doctor should write a report summarising all the findings from the examination.

For Child Victims

1. When treating a child victim who is under 12 consent from a parent or legal guardian must

be taken before treatment is conducted. However treatment should start immediately after consent is given.

2. The name, date that the assault happened and gender of the child should be recorded.
3. The child must feel comfortable with the medical examiner and the doctor should make very effort to console the child.
4. If it is a female child who is the victim every attempt should be made to find a female doctor.
5. Before conducting medical tests explain the nature of the tests and get informed consent from the parent or legal guardian of the child.
6. The child may be accompanied with the abuser. In this case the abuser should not be allowed in and a female should be with the child during the examination.
7. If a child is disabled a parent, guardian or any other person the child is comfortable with should be present during medical examination.
8. Always believe the child no matter how young they are. They will only open up if you build their trust.
9. Find innovative ways to get the child to tell their story such as drawing, dolls, conversations etc.
10. Be as flexible as possible on medical tests to adopt the child's requests and needs.
11. Reassure the child that they have the right to confidentiality. This can help build trust and child is more likely to reveal the history of the abuse.
12. Make sure doses for medical treatment are adjusted for children.
13. If signs of sexually transmitted diseases are present, take swabs to test the child.
14. When offering psychological services to a child victim make sure their parents or guardian is also present.
15. The primary goal for the doctor is to treat the child. They should not worry about collection of evidence etc.
16. The examination should be performed in suitable room and a comfortable examination table with all the tools required including Forensics safe kit so evidence from the examination can be preserved.
17. All treatment should be free of cost.
18. The doctor should write a report summarising all the findings from the examination