

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

**Purpose:** To ensure proper assessment and management of victims of sexual assault.

### I. Assessment

- A. Assess patient for injury and treat according to protocol.
- B. Use sensitivity in asking victim for historical information
- C. Obtain a complete set of basic vital signs

### II. Management

- A. Assure appropriate police agency has been notified.
  1. Preserve evidence whenever possible.
  2. Advise patient to not shower, change clothes, or dispose of pertinent objects.
- B. Thoroughly document all injuries and voluntary statements of patient.
- C. Transporting to a hospital
  1. Be clear when giving report to hospital staff that they are aware that it is a sexual assault versus a general assault so appropriate staff/room/procedures can be followed
- D. If patient refuses transport
  - a. Notify medical control of patients refusal of transport
  - b. Refer patient to support agency and/or hospital whenever possible
    1. Rape Crisis Center: 734.240.8800

### III. Special Considerations

- A. The investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident is the responsibility of the law enforcement agency.
- B. Red marks may disappear and your documentation may be the only witness that the victim was choked or struck, even though he/she stated it.
- C. Be alert for torn clothing, fragments of cloth, blood, or body fluids, etc. as they need to be preserved as evidence. Police are responsible for the disposition of this evidence.