

Sexual Assault/Abuse

ALL PROVIDERS

The legal definition of sexual assault is “any genital, anal, or oral penetration by a part of the accused’s body or by an object, using force or without the victim’s consent.” this may include any of the following situations or elements:

- violence
 - physical harm
 - assault
 - kidnapping
 - sexual offenses including but not limited to:
 - unlawful sexual activity (including minors)
 - rape/object rape
 - sodomy/forcible sodomy
 - forcible sexual abuse (reoccurring sexual assaults)
 - sexual exploitation of a person (including minors)
- ❑ Fire/EMS personnel should stage at a safe distance from the scene when the dispatch details include information of an assault, either past or currently in progress. Dispatch will notify Fire/EMS when the scene has been secured by police.
- ❑ Law enforcement is responsible for initiating a SANE response.
- ❑ Forensic evidence and crime scene preservation should be done in accordance with the **crime scene preservation** protocol.
- ❑ Assessment and interviewing the patient should be performed by a responder of the same gender when possible or second responder.
- Unless the patient chooses to provide details of the assault do not ask.
 - Questions by responders should be limited to necessary treatment of the patient, not of the sexual assault event.
 - Do not perform any type of genital examination, unless it is warranted by severe injury requiring immediate treatment, such as control of severe bleeding.
 - Limit the number of responders in the ambulance to only what is necessary.
 - If the patient wishes to have someone present for emotional support, make the arrangements.
 - Pain control considerations: Be aware that it is standard for victims of sexual assault to be drug tested to rule out date rape drugs.
 - Low dose pain medication (Morphine/ Fentanyl) may be administered, however be advised this may hinder interviews and questioning during the investigation. It may be advantageous to limit or withhold pain medication for minor injuries.
 - Versed is to be avoided except for seizure or severe anxiety. Versed is a known date rape drug.
- ❑ All treatments should be performed in accordance with the specific protocol relating to the patients

injury (i.e. trauma, respiratory distress, etc.).

- ❑ Transport to an emergency department should only be performed for patient's requiring emergency medical treatment for their injuries.
- ❑ **Documentation:** If charges are pending or pursued, EMS documentation becomes a vital link of the chain and is oftentimes called upon in a court of law.
 - Document in detail the following:
 - Assessment findings- specifically physical markings or injuries should be documented in great detail (e.g., "Three red and blue bruises of varying stages in healing were found on the patient's right forearm, just below the elbow. They were approximately one inch in diameter and round in shape. Two are noted on the lateral side of the arm and one on the medial side of the arm. Swelling throughout is noted and patient states limited range of motion in that arm.")
 - Treatment, if any, given by responders
 - Information gathered about the assault
 - Use quotes whenever possible.
 - Do not assume anything
 - Any evidence that was collected including linen, clothing, jewelry etc... and who it was left with upon arrival to the Emergency Department.