Sexual Assault Victim Care Options - Points to help Penn State students make the decision between forensic and non-forensic medical care when incident of concern was <96 hours ago

Provided at Mount Nittany Medical Center Emergency Department (MNMC ED). Call 911 for ambulance. Call 814-234-6100 for Emergency Department information. Can be provided at either MNMC ED or UHS. Call 814-863-4463, prompt 2 for UHS nurse advice.

- Specially trained healthcare providers will provide thorough, private, sensitive, confidential care and evidence collection.

- A team approach (Sexual Assault Response Team) is utilized which can include a Sexual Assault Victim Advocate for emotional support, a nurse examiner and a law enforcement officer. A physician is also part of the medical care team.

- Costs for this initial diagnostic evaluation of sexual assault will be covered either through the PA Victims Compensation Program or PSU. PSU will pay for transportation to the ED and one related follow-up evaluation at UHS.

- While a police report would be filed at the ED, you would not be required to speak with police if you prefer not to.

- Filing a police report does not mean that you are choosing to press charges.

- The focus of the police report is the concern of sexual assault. You need not fear that details of your drug or alcohol use would result in charges against you.

- The thoroughness of care does require a time commitment. Four to six hours is not uncommon for this ED evaluation.

- Delays in opting for this care can result in loss of evidence and may affect the ability of the criminal justice system to investigate and prosecute a case.

- Specially trained healthcare providers will provide private, sensitive, confidential care.

- PSU will pay for first diagnostic evaluation of sexual assault and one related follow-up exam at UHS.

- This exam does not include collection of DNA evidence to specifically assist in an investigation.

- This documentation may prove inadequate if legal action is pursued in court.

- Police are not usually notified unless there are inordinate injuries, you desire to report, a weapon is used during the assault, the assault was conducted by a stranger, or you are under 18 years of age.

- You still retain the option of filing a police report at any later date.

- Delays in reporting or talking to the police, especially extended delays, can result in loss of evidence and may affect the ability of the criminal justice system to investigate and prosecute a case.

Time is of the essence when considering this decision. You may stop the medical or forensic exam at any time or decline specific components of the exam.

This content is reviewed periodically and is subject to change as new health information becomes available. This information is intended to inform and educate and is not a replacement for medical evaluation, advice, diagnosis or treatment by a healthcare professional.

Approved by the UHS Patient Education Committee
Reviewed: 4/13/2016