

Hospitals and Hospital Procedure



Evidence Collection

- Includes
 - Swabbing
 - Head and pubic hair collection
 - Pelvic exam
 - Blood collection materials (if the survivor believes they may have been drugged)
- All of these steps are **optional**—survivor may pick and choose
- The exam is **free** in Missouri under the Victim's Compensation Fund

DV-SART (Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Response Team)

- SART Advocates offer support, information, and resources
 - SART Advocates are trained by the YWCA and are always women

SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner)

- Registered nurses who have completed specialized education and clinical preparation in the forensic care of patients who have experienced sexual assault
- Guaranteed

St. Mary's

- Services:
 - Emergency department
 - Physical Exam
 - Plan B (within 72 hours)
 - STI Prophylaxis
 - Evidence Collection Kit
- Closest hospital to campus
 - ~5 minute drive or 25 minute walk from campus
- **Shortest wait times**
- **Smaller hospital**
- **Not affiliated with WashU**



Barnes-Jewish

- Services:
 - Free PEP (HIV prophylaxis)
 - Emergency Department
 - Physical Exam
 - Plan B (within 72 hours)
 - STI Prophylaxis
 - Evidence Collection Kit
- Affiliated with WashU
 - If on student insurance, SHS (or your primary care physician) might be contacted to inform them of your emergency department visit
 - You can ask for your PCP to NOT be contacted
- 5-10 minute drive from campus
- Metro accessible with a 10 minute walk



SLU

- Services:
 - Emergency Department
 - Physical Exam
 - Plan B (within 72 hours)
 - STI Prophylaxis
 - Evidence Collection Kit
 - Shorter wait time for SANE
- 15 minute drive from campus
- Metro accessible with a 15 minute walk
- Not affiliated with WashU





Planning

- Which hospital will they go to and how will they get there
- What to bring
 - Underwear and clothes for evidence in paper bag
 - Phone and charger
 - Comfort object
 - Possibly a friend or support person
 - Remember, if possible,, do not wash in any manner (i.e. washing hands or showering)

The hospital process can take a 6-8 hours so help the caller plan accordingly





Intake

Survivor arrives at the ER and informs the triage nurse of assault (must specifically say assault)

- Can ask specifically for a SART volunteer to be called
- The triage nurse will call SART advocates, they should arrive within 40 minutes of the call





What can hospitals do?

- Emergency contraception - Plan B
 - Effective up to 72 hours after
- Medicine to prevent STIs
 - HIV - 72 hour window (PEP)
 - Other STIs are mostly treated with antibiotics
- Evidence Collection
- General Physical Exam

The survivor can say no to any part of the exam





Police and the Hospital Process

- A police officer (possibly 2) may be called to the hospital in case the survivor wants to report
 - Most of the time, police will be dispatched only if requested
- Reporting is ***optional***
- Should the survivor want to report, an interview will be conducted
 - The survivor is allowed to ask for the SART advocate to be present
 - This may or may not be respected
 - The officer will ask specific questions about the encounter for the police report
 - May be invasive/not trauma informed
- Important note: a report must be filed in the county in which the assault occurred





Takeaways

- In terms of legal strength: should the survivor wish to press charges, it is advisable to report to the police at the hospital
- Because of this, it is possible that nurses/doctors will push survivors to report and/or complete all part of the evidence collection kit
- It is, thus, critical to remind the survivor that they do not need to do anything they are not comfortable with, medically or legally.

