



Sexual Assault Adult Trauma

Austin County
EMS Protocol & Guideline

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Primary Intervention

- Ask victims if they would like family members or friends to be contacted.
- Take measures to preserve crime scene evidence, including evidence on victims.

History and Documentation

- Document victims' demeanor and statements related to the assault (e.g., time, date, place of attacks).
- Obtain medical history, including the possibility of pregnancy.
- Document physical areas violated in the attack (if patients volunteer the information). Include all marks or evidence of trauma and other significant physical findings.
- Record information about whether victims bathed since the attack.
- Document all treatment given.

Physical Exam (unless a life-threatening condition occurs)

- Physical exams need to be limited and conducted without causing further emotional distress to victims.
- Explain to victims the importance of preserving bodily evidence until it can be collected (e.g., do not wash, change clothes, urinate, defecate, smoke, drink, eat, brush hair or teeth, rinse mouth).

Treatment

- Obtain vital signs.
- Stabilize injuries that need immediate attention (e.g., fractures, bleeding).

Transport

- If victims are wearing clothing worn during their assaults, make sure that they bring replacement clothing to the hospital because victims' clothing is taken into evidence.
- If victims changed clothes after their attacks, make sure that they bring the clothing they were wearing while assaulted. Use paper rather than plastic bags as plastic bags trap moisture and promote mildew, which destroys vital evidence. Follow law enforcement procedures for retrieving clothing or other items from a crime scene so that evidence is not inadvertently destroyed or contaminated).
- Transport victims to designated facilities where rape evidence exams are performed, unless medical conditions dictate otherwise.
- Victims with disabilities may have equipment (e.g., wheelchairs) or service animals that also need to be transported.

Scott & White in College Station have both Pediatric and Adult SANE nursing available at all times. They also have a forensic unit.

Memorial Hermann System has SANE nursing available but may have to come in from another location

Scott & White in College Station and Memorial Hermann & Texas Children's in the Medical Center have 24 hour Pediatric SANE Nursing.

All pediatric sexual assaults must be transported to a facility that has a pediatric SANE nurse available unless patient has a life threatening condition that requires transport to the nearest facility.