

Violence Against Women Is Against The Law!



WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT!

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF MEDICATIONS, PROCEDURES AND ASSISTANCE THAT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO A SURVIVOR OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT AND/OR RAPE.

Rape Kit:

When a rape victim decides to go to the hospital she may become anxious about what medical procedures await her. Most hospitals follow similar protocols and procedures referred to as "The Rape Kit". The Rape Kit includes materials and instructions needed to accrue the minimum amount of evidence so that a medical laboratory can conduct the most thorough examination.

Your clothing will be needed for evidence therefore you will be asked for it at the time of the examination.

The victim's informed consent is necessary for a rape kit to be used. This consent allows the Health Care Providers to collect and preserve all evidence that is available and will be used for prosecution of the perpetrator.

It is most important to be sure not to shower or bath after a rape and/or sexual assault until after you have received medical attention. Washing may destroy evidence.

Informed Consent: Informed Consent is the understanding of any test, procedure or medications provided to you. If you are too upset to read the information yourself ask for it to be read to you. You have a right to all information concerning any tests, procedures or medications you receive.

Advocate:

An advocate should be available to anyone who has been sexually assaulted and/or raped. An advocate offers support through difficult times by being with you to make sure what you want is being heard and that your decisions are being respected. An advocate will explain what procedures are needed and what those procedures involve. Your local Domestic Violence Shelter/Program and the hospital have advocates available for you. The Emergency Room (ER) staff can assist you in contacting this person.

Emergency Contraception (EC):

EC should be available to women after a sexual assault. EC contains hormones that reduce the risk of pregnancy if started within 120 hours (5 days) of unprotected intercourse. The treatment is more effective the sooner it begins.

Health Care Providers are not required to offer EC to women after a rape, so if you want this medication you will have to ask the doctor about it.

EC will not harm a fetus. Still, you should not use emergency contraception if you are pregnant.

If you decide not to take EC remember that a pregnancy could occur from the rape so a follow up pregnancy test is needed. You have a right to an abortion should a pregnancy occur.

Emergency Contraception is available at:

- * Indian Health Service (ask the doctor or nurse)
- * Planned Parenthood health centers
- * College, public, and women's health centers
- * Private doctors
- * Hospital Emergency Rooms — unless they are affiliated with religions that oppose the use of birth control (They can still provide you with information about it and make a referral where you can get it)

www.plannedparenthood.org/ec/
www.go2Planb.com

PEP: Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

PEP may provide a window of opportunity in the first few hours or days after exposure to HIV in which antiretroviral combination therapy may be able to prevent HIV infection by 80% in the event you have been exposed to it. Ask your Health Care Provider for full explanation of PEP.

Reproductive Tract Infections;

Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI's) are often associated with a sexual assault. It is important to make sure that your Health Care Provider tests you for them.

Follow up:

It is important that a follow-up visit to your Health Care Provider is done. Make a list of questions you may have forgotten to ask before and take it with you. Remember you have a right to all of the results of your tests and an abortion if it is needed.

Your Rights

- You have a right to privacy.
- You have a right to confidentiality.
- You have a right to be treated with respect.
- You have a right to be treated like an adult.
- You have a right to refuse any or all services offered.
- You have a right to pursue prosecution or not.

YOU ARE IMPORTANT! YOUR HEALTH IS IMPORTANT!
KNOW YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO COMPLETE, ACCURATE, RESPECTFUL AND INFORMED HEALTH CARE!

**South Dakota Coalition Against Domestic
Violence and Sexual Assault**
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The Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center
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www.nativeshop.org

Insert your local program contact information here: