



st. joseph Healthcare
St. Joseph Hospital



SAFE/SANE INTRO

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What is a SAFE or SANE?

- **SAFE:** Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner
 - Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, and Physicians
- **SANE:** Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
 - Board certification through IAFN



Definition of a SAFE

A Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner is a health care provider who has been specially trained to provide comprehensive care for the sexual assault patient, who demonstrates competency in conducting a forensic exam, and has the ability to be an expert or fact witness in court.



State of Maine SAFE Program

- In Maine, the SAFE program is “housed” under DHHS, Office of Child and Family Services
- The SAFE Advisory Board issues recommendations for healthcare providers and these recommendations are intended to:
 - Promote the development of specialized skills necessary to provide comprehensive and quality medical-forensic care for the patient who has suffered sexual assault/abuse
 - Ensure training in the collection, documentation, and management of evidence collection during the medical forensic exam
 - Prepare healthcare providers to testify in legal proceedings



Did you know?

- There's separate training and certification requirements for adults/adolescents and pediatrics.
- Most SAFEs only care for sexual assault and child sexual abuse cases.



...BUT the SAFE program at St. Joseph Hospital cares for all victims of crime.

We are a comprehensive program covering sexual assault, domestic violence, strangulation, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking.



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St. Joe's STATs

- 2016
 - 53 forensic exams (sexual assault)
- 2017
 - 64 forensic exams (sexual assault)
- 2018
 - 160 forensic exams
 - Addition of DV with and without non-fatal strangulation
- 2019
 - 162 forensic exams
 - 94% female; 6% male
 - 85% adult; 15% minors
 - 39% sexual assault
 - 41% domestic violence
 - 18.5% human trafficking
 - 12% other (assault, child abuse r/o)
 - 30% involved non-fatal strangulation



So what happens at the hospital?

Whatever the patient wants.

100% patient driven care.



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IT'S MORE THAN JUST A "RAPE KIT"



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WHAT HAPPENS AT THE HOSPITAL?

- SAFE/SANE
- Advocate
- Medical/Surgical History
- History of the assault
- Head-to-toe exam
- Document injuries
- Treatment for injuries
- STI prophylaxis
- Pregnancy prophylaxis
- Evidence collection....the kit
- Forensic photography
- Follow-up care planning
- Reassurance/emotional security
- Safety planning
- Report to LEO
- Expert testimony
- Confidentiality



MAINE STATE SEX CRIMES KIT

A victim of sexual assault has **FOUR** options

1. No evidence collection, No report.
2. No evidence collection, Yes report.
3. Evidence collection*, No report.**
4. Evidence collection*, Yes report.***

*as much or as little as they want

**anonymous kit sent to local LE

***kit sent to LE covering location of SA



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Payment/Billing for Sexual Assault Patients

- The Victim's Compensation Fund provides direct reimbursement to hospitals, up to \$750, for the sexual assault forensic examination (with evidence collection kit)
- The hospital may not bill for the SA or any balance over \$750
- The bill will be paid regardless of reporting status.
- If no kit done, the patient may be billed. We discuss this with the patient and navigate each patient's unique scenario accordingly (ex: student doesn't want parents to know but on parents insurance)



QUESTIONS?!



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