

# Marquette County EMS Medical Control Authority

## Sexual Assault (Alleged) Protocol

Part 1, Section 1  
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**Purpose:** To address the identification, assessment, management, and care of possible victims of rape, sexual abuse, or molestation, including children, adolescents, elderly, and other vulnerable individuals.

*Note: \*Michigan law (MCL 722.623) and the Child Protection Law (Act No. 238 of 1975) requires that licensed EMS providers who have "reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect" shall report "immediately, by telephone or otherwise" their suspicions to the Protective Services Agency for the County involved. In cases of suspected child abuse, this oral report shall also be followed with a written report on the Family Independence Agency "3200" forms available in the emergency departments at both Bell Memorial and Marquette General Health System.*

*Michigan law (MCL 722.623) also requires this same oral report for suspected cases of abuse or neglect of an adult.*

### I. Procedure for Assessment

- a. Preserve all evidence whenever possible. Pertinent items should be secured and bagged and turned over to law enforcement.
- b. Advise the patient not to shower, change clothes, or dispose of any pertinent objects.
- c. Assess patient for injury and treat according to protocol only as needed, without causing undue emotional trauma to patient. Note any of the following potential indicators for possible abuse, but minimize any questioning of the patient.
  - i. Bruises, abrasions, bleeding, etc.
  - ii. Patient states he/she was sexually abused, or the EMS provider is told verbally that the patient is being sexually abused.
  - iii. Bruising, welts, or other injuries to the central trunk of the body (i.e. breasts, abdomen, genitals, buttocks, and/or anal area that cannot be satisfactorily explained).
- d. Assure appropriate police agency has been notified.
- e. Use sensitivity in asking victim for historical information related to injuries.
- f. Thoroughly document all injuries and voluntary statements of patient. Note all reddened areas that may fade quickly, documenting location, size, and severity.
- g. Transport assuring the utmost respect and privacy.

### II. Special Considerations

- a. The investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident is the responsibility of law enforcement.
- b. Current Michigan Law (722.263) will be followed regarding all suspected cases of abuse, including verbal and written reporting requirements.
  - i. Children/Adolescents PA 238 of 1975.
  - ii. Adults/Elderly/Vulnerable PA 519 of 1982.

- III. Contact the local State of Michigan Family Independence Agency (906) 228-7570 or (906) 228-9691 with a verbal report and follow up with documentation on Form 3200, available in the Emergency Department. This requirement IS NOT met by notification of your suspicions and/or findings to the accepting physician.

### AUTHENTICATION AND APPROVAL

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Marquette County EMS Medical Director  
Original Approval: 09/10/02

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Date