Professional Referral Pathway for Sexual Assault into a SARC: Bridge House, York

Client discloses sexual assault

Was the sexual assault within the last 7 days?

Yes

Assess immediate safety issues e.g. domestic abuse, child protection, mental health: refer as necessary.

Post coital contraception should be given and BBV screen including HIV PEP/Hep B should be considered before attending the SARC. Intimate examination should not be delayed if the individual is symptomatic.

Does the client wish to report to the police?

Yes

Contact the Police on: 999
And explain that you are reporting a sexual assault.

No

Assess immediate safety issues e.g. domestic abuse, child protection, mental health: refer as necessary.

Contact the Police on: 101
And explain that you are reporting a sexual assault.

Does the client want a forensic examination?

Yes

Contact the SARC immediately on the client’s behalf: 0330 223 0362

Remember use of EEK, if available.

No

Does the client wish to report to the Police?

Yes

No

Is the client happy to be referred or self-refer to the SARC?

Yes

Refer to the SARC on: 0330 223 0362

Follow up to see if client attended.

No

Give client the SARC leaflet. Remind them that they can contact the Police if they wish.

Assess medical needs and manage STIs as appropriate.

Post coital emergency contraception

- Post coital contraception is available until 5 days post assault and consideration for an IUCD if required.
- The SARC offers post coital contraception however, is unable to offer IUCD therefore local pathways should be considered.

Management of Sexual Health

HIV risk assessment should be conducted within 72 hours of assault and consideration given to HIV PEP. This can be undertaken by the SARC.

Further sexual health screening is undertaken at the GUM clinic including hepatitis B vaccination and ongoing monitoring. An appointment should be offered at 2 weeks post incident. The SARC can offer advice if required.

*NB – Forensic Window
Beware that the collection of certain forensic samples will be determined by the nature of the assault. The 7 day window is a guideline.

Vaginal Penetration – 7 days
Anal Penetration – 72 hours
Oral Penetration – 48 hours
Digital Penetration – 48 hours

Injuries can be documented when present
Clothing, tampons, toothbrushes, etc. can all be saved to provide evidence.

Therapeutic need ALWAYS comes before forensic samples. Contact the SARC if in doubt on 0330 223 0362 during office hours. For out of hours advice, contact Mountain Healthcare on 0330 223 0099.