

THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.



NYC REMAC

Advisory No.	2008-04		
Title:	SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINER (SAFE) PROGRAMS		
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The Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of NYC has worked with advocates for victims of sexual assault in order to promote the use of Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Programs (SAFE) in New York City Emergency Departments (ED).

SAFE Programs allow expert medical management of victims of sexual assault and expert forensic examinations for evidence collection and expert testimony. The 24-hour availability of trained sexual assault examiners, specialized equipment to detect and document injury, dedicated examination and shower rooms, trained advocates and full-time social workers for follow-up counseling services and emotional support allow for seamless integration of all medical, forensic, and counseling care.

Effective immediately, all New York City ambulances will offer stable patients, identified as being survivors of sexual assault, transportation to an emergency department with a SAFE Program (refer to attached list).

Owners/operators of Ambulance and ALS First Response Services providing prehospital medical treatment within the five boroughs of the City of New York are responsible to provide copies of the NYC REMAC Prehospital Treatment Protocols to their personnel, and to ensure that Service Medical Directors and EMS personnel are informed of all changes/updates to the NYC REMAC Prehospital Treatment Protocols.

This new procedure is effective immediately.

Lewis W. Marshall, Jr., MD, JD
Chair

Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee of New York City

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Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Programs

General Operating Procedure:

1. Upon identification of a stable adult (12 years or older) sexual assault patient (based on patient self-report or bystander/police report):
 - a. Provide appropriate treatment for any injuries/illnesses in accordance with REMAC Prehospital Treatment Protocols. Physical examination to identify or confirm sexual abuse shall not be performed by EMS healthcare providers.
 - b. Advise the patient that transportation to an emergency department with a SAFE Program is available and encourage the patient to accept transport to the nearest SAFE facility.
 - c. If a stable patient accepts transport to a SAFE facility, transport the patient to the nearest (or closest) SAFE hospital.

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Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Programs

SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINER (SAFE) PROGRAM FACILITIES

(This list will be updated as necessary and posted on www.nycremsco.org)

The following hospitals offer SAFE Programs:

1. Bellevue Hospital Center (New York)
2. Beth Israel Medical Center/Petrie Campus (New York)
3. Coney Island Hospital (Brooklyn)
4. Elmhurst Hospital Center (Elmhurst)
5. Harlem Hospital Center (New York)
6. Jacobi Medical Center (Bronx)
7. Kings County Hospital Center (Brooklyn)
8. Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center (Bronx)
9. *Long Island College Hospital (Brooklyn) -temporarily on hold*
10. Metropolitan Hospital Center (New York)
11. Mount Sinai Hospital (New York)
12. Nassau University Medical Center (East Meadow)
13. New York Presbyterian Hospital - Allen Pavilion (New York)
14. New York Presbyterian Hospital - Columbia Presbyterian Center (New York)
15. North Central Bronx Hospital (Bronx)
16. North Shore University Hospital (Manhasset)
17. Queens Hospital Center (Jamaica)
18. Richmond University Medical Center (Staten Island)
19. St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center - Roosevelt Hospital Division (New York)
20. St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital - St Luke's Hospital Division (New York)
21. Woodhull Medical & Mental Health Center (Brooklyn)