

## RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

If a patient claims to have been sexually assaulted then their privacy should be ensured and they should be moved into a single room. Carefully document the history given, as much as possible in their own words. Emergency treatment and resuscitation can be provided as long as it is documented clearly in the notes. DO NOT perform an intimate examination, unless emergency treatment is required, as this will interfere with the forensic chain of evidence. If there has been a risk of HIV transmission during the assault and PEPSE (post exposure prophylaxis after sexual assault) is indicated, a blood sample should be taken and sent to Virology for HIV testing. This differs from the guidance in needlestick injuries, in which blood is taken only for storage.

If the assault has taken place within the last 7 days, then offer a referral to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) at Archway within the Sandyford Clinic on Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. This SARC provides forensic and medical assessment of patients who have been recently sexually assaulted. Referrals can be made by NHS, Police Scotland or patients can self-refer. Presently the centre is open weekdays 9-5. Patients presenting out-of-hours may be examined by a Forensic Medical Examiner (police surgeon) that night or may be given an appointment for the following day. There are plans to have female Archway doctors on-call until midnight by Summer 2019.

The following is provided:

Forensic examination and collection of evidence

Screening and treatment of STIs

Provision of emergency contraception if required

Counselling

Onward referral to support services eg Rape Crisis, Social Work Services

Referral should be offered to all patients, regardless of gender, even if they do not wish to involve the police. Such patients can still have a forensic examination and collection of evidence. This evidence is stored for a maximum period of 18 months, in case the patient changes their mind about police involvement at some later date. The patient will be able to access the other services above as well. The service is open to children 13-15 yrs, LAAC aged 13-18 and adults. Children under the age of 13 require specialist examination by two doctors, one being a paediatrician.

If the assault has taken place more than 7 days prior to disclosure, then the patient should still be encouraged to involve the police. However forensic sexual examination and specimen collection is unlikely to yield useful evidence. These patients should be encouraged to contact support agencies such as Rape Crisis Scotland where they will be able to access counselling and other support services.

## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Archway Sexual Assault Referral Centre

2-6 Sandyford Place

Sauchiehall Street

Glasgow

G3 7NB

Tel: 0141 211 8175

Rape Crisis Scotland

08088 010302

Free phone line from 6pm to midnight

Email support: [support@rapecrisisScotland.org.uk](mailto:support@rapecrisisScotland.org.uk)

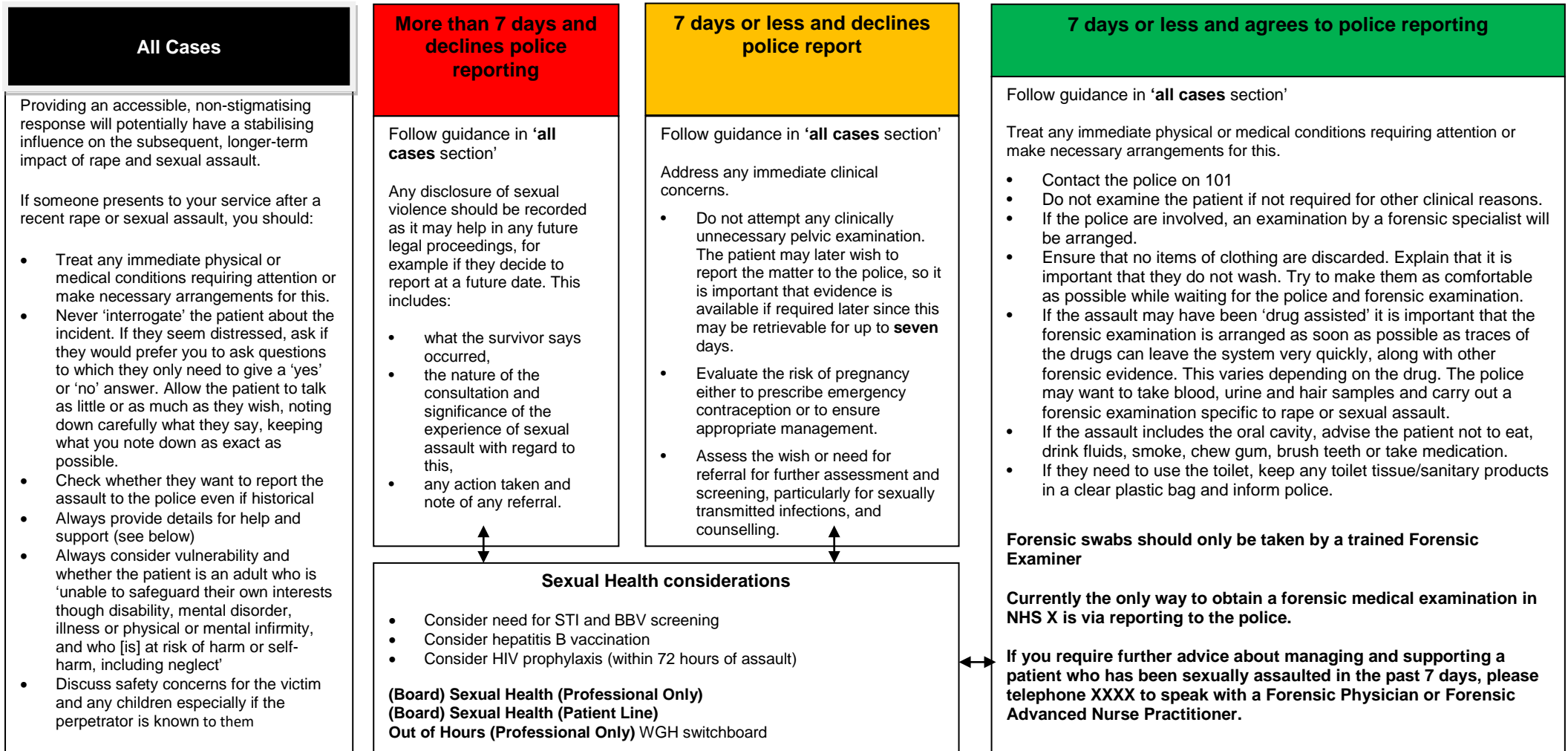
Glasgow Women's Aid

Drop-in Mon-Fri 9.30-4.30

0141 553 2022

[www.glasgowwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.glasgowwomensaid.org.uk)

## Adult Sexual Assault - 7 Day Window Considerations (For children – you must follow Child Protection Protocols)



Helpline & Contacts			
<p><b>Rape Crisis Scotland</b> Between 6pm and midnight on <b>08088 01 03 02</b> minicom number <b>0141 353 3091</b></p>	<p><b>Women's Aid</b> TBC</p>	<p><b>Abused Men in Scotland</b> 0808 800 0024</p>	<p><b>Lesbian and Gay Switchboard</b> TBC</p>
<p><b>Shakti Women's Aid</b></p>	<p><b>Local Rape Crisis Centre</b> TBC</p>	<p>For further information see What Health Workers Need to Know About Gender Based Violence  <a href="http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/2099/gbv-domestic-abuse-march2019.pdf">http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/2099/gbv-domestic-abuse-march2019.pdf</a></p>	