



Steps for responding to sexual assault

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FIRST

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STEP 1

IF A PATIENT DISCLOSES SEXUAL ASSAULT:

Assess if the patient is unwell or injured.

If any emergency treatment or first aid is required, provide this NOW.

STEP 2

Take the patient to the onsite medical centre and hand over care to the medic

If the person is under 18, and you are a mandatory reporter (eg: nurse, midwife, minister of religion, teacher etc), you must submit a mandatory report within 24 hours.

STEP 3

MEDICS ONLY

- ▶ Ensure the patient is in a safe private space
- ▶ Offer to contact a support person for the patient
- ▶ Make sure the patient can access a phone (check mobile phone is charged and in range)
- ▶ Do not undertake a detailed history of what happened

Let the patient know:

- ▶ I am going to call the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) based in Perth.
- ▶ SARC is a confidential service and has an expert team of doctors and counsellors who can help in this situation.
- ▶ SARC can let you know what your options are so you can choose what's best for you.
- ▶ Would you be OK to speak to someone from SARC?

Do not contact the police unless requested by the patient or advised by SARC

STEP 4

Before calling SARC complete the following:

Patient's name: _____

Patient's DOB: _____

Patient's number: _____

Phone number for SARC to call: _____

Patient's home state: _____

Nearest hospital / distance: _____

Call SARC on (08) 6458 1828 (24 hours/day)

Date SARC called: _____

Time SARC called: _____

Name(s) of SARC staff member(s) spoken to: _____

A specialist counsellor will triage the patient over the phone.

If required, a SARC doctor will call you to explain how forensic specimens are to be taken and help arrange further care.

STEP 5

Complete the Data Collection Form and email to SARC within 24 hours.

You may need to report the incident to WorkSafe but you do not need to do so just yet.

What is important right now is caring for your patient whilst respecting their privacy and choices.