

## **Exam Settings**

### **SART Listserv**

**February 2007**

**Issue:** Alternative forensic medical exam settings

**Background:** A program is looking for information about SART models that provide forensic exams for sexual assault victims in survivor-friendly settings outside the emergency department.

#### **California (Santa Clara County)**

- Hospital-based program.
- If patients present to ER, they are moved to our SART clinic which is close by but not attached.
- The exam site has a lobby for family, an area for the police to wait and write reports, a shower area, and a clothing locker. It has been in continuous operation for 20 years.
- Examiners are paid through hospital billing by the requesting police agency.
- The jurisdiction has 15 Police Departments in Santa Clara County, serving 1.5 million people.
- All police departments bring all sexual assault victims to designated hospital exam site.
- The program is divided between Pedi SART (11 yrs & younger) and Adult (12 yrs and older). Each team does average 30 cases/month.
- The rape crisis advocates respond from the YWCA. They are excellent, responsive, dependable, and well-trained. They provide a lot of post-assault resources.

#### **Florida (Pinellas County)**

- Our program does NOT utilize an ER for exams.
- We are housed in a free standing facility.
- We have our own exam rooms set up for both adult and pediatric sexual assault exams.

#### **Georgia (Gwinnett)**

- Program located in metro-Atlanta (population approximately 800,000)
- The program features a sexual assault center and child advocacy center, both of which operate 24 hours a day.
- All forensic exams are performed at the center which is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year of service.

#### **Missouri (Columbia)**

- Two major hospitals have created separate rooms in the hospital away from the ER for sexual assault exams.
- There are 9 SANEs on call who can work at either of the hospitals.
- It has worked out extremely well, and was a direct result of the work of our SART.

#### **New York (Albany)**

- Family Services in Dutchess County, New York has their SAE rooms set up in the ambulatory surgery wing in two of their hospitals.

- Because most assaults occur during the evenings/nights/weekends (and because the ambulatory surgery section is generally occupied M-F, during the day) the section is usually fairly empty and quiet when sexual assault victims are there for exams.
- They have beautiful exams rooms, complete with gorgeous furniture donated by a local furniture store.

### **New York (Suffolk County)**

- In Suffolk County, NY we have 3 sites. While none of the sites are in the ED, all are on hospital grounds so that patients can be transferred to the ED if they have injuries that require intervention or the patient expresses suicidal ideation.
- The only time an exam is done in the ED is if the patient is physically or emotionally unstable.

### **Ohio (Cleveland)**

- The hospital's SANE program has a private patient room away from the Emergency Department;
- Patients are medically cleared before staff bring them to the exam site.
- If patients need to be brought back to the ED, we are close enough to do so.
- The exam site has a shower and TV. It is large enough to accommodate one or two extra persons in the room.
- There is also a small waiting area established outside of the room for family or friends of the patient.

### **Tennessee (Memphis)**

- We are a city of Memphis agency that provides on-site, 24-hour emergency care, including nursing examinations, evidence collection, medications to treat sexually transmitted infections, emergency contraception, as well as crisis intervention and advocacy for all sexual assault victims from the Memphis area and surrounding counties.
- We work closely with local hospitals & law enforcement agencies who refer all sexual assault victims to MSARC. For those victims admitted to a hospital, our forensic nurses and advocates travel to victims' location to provide services.

### **Texas (San Antonio)**

- Methodist Specialty & Transplant Hospital in San Antonio does an excellent job of removing victims/survivors from the "ER atmosphere."