SAFE/SANE INTRO

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What is a SAFE or SANE?

• **SAFE**: Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner
  – Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, and Physicians

• **SANE**: Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
  – Board certification through IAFN
Definition of a SAFE

A Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner is a health care provider who has been specially trained to provide comprehensive care for the sexual assault patient, who demonstrates competency in conducting a forensic exam, and has the ability to be an expert or fact witness in court.
State of Maine SAFE Program

• In Maine, the SAFE program is “housed” under DHHS, Office of Child and Family Services

• The SAFE Advisory Board issues recommendations for healthcare providers and these recommendations are intended to:
  – Promote the development of specialized skills necessary to provide comprehensive and quality medical-forensic care for the patient who has suffered sexual assault/abuse
  – Ensure training in the collection, documentation, and management of evidence collection during the medical forensic exam
  – Prepare healthcare providers to testify in legal proceedings
Did you know?

• There’s separate training and certification requirements for adults/adolescents and pediatrics.

• Most SAFEs only care for sexual assault and child sexual abuse cases.
...BUT the SAFE program at St. Joseph Hospital cares for all victims of crime.

We are a comprehensive program covering sexual assault, domestic violence, strangulation, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking.
St. Joe’s STATs

• 2016
  – 53 forensic exams (sexual assault)

• 2017
  – 64 forensic exams (sexual assault)

• 2018
  – 160 forensic exams
  – Addition of DV with and without non-fatal strangulation

• 2019
  – 162 forensic exams
  • 94% female; 6% male
  • 85% adult; 15% minors
  • 39% sexual assault
  • 41% domestic violence
  • 18.5% human trafficking
  • 12% other (assault, child abuse r/o)
  • 30% involved non-fatal strangulation
So what happens at the hospital?

Whatever the patient wants.

100% patient driven care.
IT’S MORE THAN JUST A
“RAPE KIT”
WHAT HAPPENS AT THE HOSPITAL?

• SAFE/SANE
• Advocate
• Medical/Surgical History
• History of the assault
• Head-to-toe exam
• Document injuries
• Treatment for injuries
• STI prophylaxis
• Pregnancy prophylaxis

• Evidence collection....the kit
• Forensic photography
• Follow-up care planning
• Reassurance/emotional security
• Safety planning
• Report to LEO
• Expert testimony
• Confidentiality
MAINE STATE SEX CRIMES KIT

A victim of sexual assault has **FOUR** options

1. No evidence collection, No report.
2. No evidence collection, Yes report.
3. Evidence collection*, No report.**
4. Evidence collection*, Yes report.***

*as much or as little as they want
**anonymous kit sent to local LE
***kit sent to LE covering location of SA
Payment/Billing for Sexual Assault Patients

- The Victim’s Compensation Fund provides direct reimbursement to hospitals, up to $750, for the sexual assault forensic examination (with evidence collection kit)
- The hospital may not bill for the SA or any balance over $750
- The bill will be paid regardless of reporting status.

- If no kit done, the patient may be billed. We discuss this with the patient and navigate each patient’s unique scenario accordingly (ex: student doesn’t want parents to know but on parents insurance)
QUESTIONS?!