What to Expect at a Sexual Assault Nurse Exam (SANE)

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Legal definition of rape = Assault that includes penetration, lack of consent and threat or actual use of force.

Criteria for having a SANE exam:
1. Assault within 5 days (120 hours) unless only oral/anal penetration (then must be within 24 hours)
2. Patient is 12 or older
3. Patient is medically cleared by ER physician
4. Patient consents to the exam and evidence collection

Rape crisis counselor is always brought in with SANE.
In Worcester we use Pathways for Change
Hotline # 1-800-870-5905

What to expect at the ER:
• Patient is evaluated through triage
• Medical screening by ER attending physician and primary nurse
• Once medically cleared and patient consents to exam, SANE is activated through beeper system and responds within 60 minutes
• The whole visit can take 3+ hours
• Exam includes a 17 step kit provided by MA DPH
  o Includes documentation of Victim’s story, physical exam, swabs to pick up DNA and other legal evidence, forensic photography
• Medications are recommended for prophylaxis against STDs and pregnancy
• Instructions provided for Victim Compensation
• Recommendations provided for follow up
• Safety planning

It is the patient’s choice to report to police. If they do not report kit is kept for 6 months before being destroyed. If they report the kit is sent the State Crime Lab for processing. Should they report late but within those 6 months, the kit can be processed according to a specific kit # given to the patient during the exam.