

POLICY

The policy of Riverside County Regional Medical Center (RCRMC), Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is to provide the appropriate medical screening examination and/or medical clearance examination for patients presenting to the Emergency Department who have reported a sexual assault and/or are requesting a Forensic Medical Examination. Although the Code of Federal Regulations does not require a Medical Screening examination for patients presenting to the Emergency Department for the sole purpose of gathering evidence, it is the policy of the RUHS Medical Center to provide a medical Screening and/or medical Clearance exam to all SART patients.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Forensic Medical Examination:** Examination conducted by a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) with the purpose of discovering and preserving evidence of assault.
2. **Medical Screening:** The process required to reach, within reasonable clinical confidence, the point at which it can be determined whether an emergency medical condition does or does not exist.
3. **Medical Clearance:** Medical Screening exam performed by an Emergency Department practitioner (Resident physician, attending physician, Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner) prior to a Forensic Medical Examination.
4. **Medical Screening Form:** SART Screening Status Form - SART-472
5. **SART patients:** Patients 12 years of age and older who present for a Forensic Medical Examination.

GUIDELINES

1. SART patients requiring Medical Clearance prior to Forensic Medical Examination
 - a. Patients presenting to the Emergency Department prior to reporting a sexual assault to law enforcement (self-presenting)
 - b. Patient presenting to the Emergency Department via ambulance
 - c. Patients presenting to the Emergency Department for a Forensic Medical Examination who have medical complaints including pain, bleeding, strangulation, and/or are intoxicated upon presentation.
 - d. Pediatric patients
 - e. Domestic Violence cases
2. SART patients presenting for the sole purpose of receiving a Forensic Medical Examination will receive a Medical Screening examination by the SANE Department of Nursing - Sexual Assault Response Team Page 2 of 2 Subject: Medical Screening/ Medical Clearance Document No. SART-102
3. SART patients with emergent/urgent medical needs or conditions will be referred to the Emergency Department following Forensic Medical Examination for further evaluation and/or treatment.

4. Documentation

- a. Medical Clearance examination will be documented via the Emergency Department's documentation system
- b. Medical Screening examinations performed by the SANE will be documented on the Medical Screening Form
- c. Patients will be referred to the Emergency Department as necessary. If the patient declines treatment/ screening by the Emergency Department, the patient will be informed of his/her right to refuse treatment and of the risks of refusing evaluation and/or treatment.
- d. If the patient declines treatment/ screening by the Emergency Department, the patient will be required to sign the appropriate forms indicating they have been informed of the risks of refusing treatment.