

# MEDICAL CHECKLIST FOR INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Always keep the best interest of the child in mind, and provide everyone with quality services!

Interviewing children **under the age of 18**, and/or documentation of cases involving children **under age of 18** should be done in the presence of an adult or guardian, as chosen by the child

## KEY GUIDELINES

- No decision is made without the **INFORMED CONSENT** of the survivor, children have the right to participate in decision making processes
- Conduct discussions in private settings with same-sex staff
- **NEVER** blame the survivor
- Be a good listener, and non-judgmental
- Be patient: do not press for information she does not want to share
- Ask only relevant questions
- Avoid the survivor having to repeat her story in multiple interviews
- Do not laugh, show disrespect or disbelief
- At all times, prioritize survivor and staff safety and security
- Always observe the guiding principles of **SAFETY, BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD, CONFIDENTIALITY, RESPECT, AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**
- All patients have the right to **health care, non-discrimination, information, privacy, confidentiality, and self-determination/child participation**

## Possible Results of Seeking Support (for survivor information):

### BENEFITS

- Prevention of HIV infection
- Prevention of pregnancy as a result of rape
- Treatment of sexually transmitted infections
- Treatment of injuries
- Access to emotional and psychosocial support
- Able to conduct forensic report and file case with police/court

### CONSEQUENCES

- Compromised confidentiality and safety
- Possible inappropriate treatment by service providers
- Incident reported to others: the police, community leaders, etc.

## PRIORITIES FOR HEALTH CARE:

### POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS:

- Give to patient **within 72 hours/3 days after exposure to blood or semen**
- **Prevents HIV infection**
- 28 days course of zidovudine and lamivudine, **give 1<sup>st</sup> dose immediately**
- Do NOT insist on HIV test before giving drug
- Does NOT treat HIV if a patient already is infected

### EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVES:

- Give to women and girls **within 5 days after vaginal intercourse**
- **Prevents pregnancy**
- Is NOT an abortion method
- Does NOT affect an already existing pregnancy if the women/girl was pregnant before the rape

### SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS:

- Give antibiotics to patients after intercourse to **treat sexually transmitted infections**
- Give to patient within 2 weeks after intercourse
- Treats chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis
- No treatment available for warts