



# Emergency Department Sexual Assault Presentation Procedure

## 1. Guiding Principles

This procedure is to guide practitioners who provide access to medical care, psychological care and forensic specimen collection in WA Country Health Service (WACHS) South West sites for patients who present with sexual assault.

This procedure should be used in conjunction with the [WACHS Responding to Sexual Assault Policy](#).

This procedure is founded on the Sexual Assault Resource centre (SARC) Medical and Forensic Manual, 2010 (here in referred to as the SARC Manual). A SARC Doctor and counsellor are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for advice. Refer to [Appendix 2](#) for contact details

## 2. Procedure

This procedure is to be used in conjunction with the [WACHS Responding to Sexual Assault Policy](#). The procedure of providing care to patients who present with sexual assault is presented as a flowchart in [Appendix 1](#).

All patients presenting are triaged as per the Australasian Triage Score by staff competent to triage.

Secondary assessment includes completion of [MR3 SARC Emergency Care: History and Checklist](#).

## 3. Definitions

<b>Forensic Gazetted Nurse</b>	A registered nurse, midwife or nurse practitioner who has completed the Forensic Gazetted Nursing course, Sexual Assault Resource Centre, Department of Health, Western Australia.
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	<p>The working definition of sexual assault as used by the Sexual Assault Resource Centre is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- any sexual behaviour or act which is threatening, violent, forced, coercive or exploitive and to which a person has not given consent or was not able to give consent</li><li>- sexual assault is not a medical diagnosis, it is a legal definition.</li></ul>

## 4. Roles and Responsibilities

**All Staff** are required to work within policies and guidelines to make sure that WACHS is a safe, equitable and positive place to be.

**Regional Nursing Midwifery Director and Medical Director**

Accountable for maintenance of, compliance with, evaluation and review of this procedure.

**Emergency Department Medical Officer / General Practitioner**

Provide injury management, Sexually Transmitted Infection and emergency contraception care within their scope of practice.

**Gynaecological Consultant/Registrar or other Specialist Consultants**

Provide care, support and advice on apparent genital trauma or other injuries within their scope of practice.

**Regional Nurse Educators**

Responsible for facilitating training and learning opportunities and providing resources related to sexual assault, including the WACHS, South West, Learning and Development intranet resource page.

**Forensic Gazetted Nurses**

Responsible for maintaining their currency in this area and working within their scope of practice. Additionally they train registered nurses, midwives or nurse practitioners in preliminary forensic specimen collection.

**Trained registered nurses, midwives or nurse practitioners with preliminary forensic specimen collection skills**

Responsible for maintaining currency in this area and working within their scope of practice.

## 5. Compliance

Failure to comply with this procedure may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Integrity Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) (WA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

WACHS staff are reminded that compliance with all policies is mandatory.

## 6. Records Management

All WACHS clinical records must be managed in accordance with [Health Record Management Policy](#).

## 7. Evaluation

Monitoring of compliance with this document is to be carried out by nominated staff as directed by the Regional Nurse Director, six monthly then annually by the audit of patient records to assess compliance with the established care pathways.

## 8. Standards

[National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#) 1.1b, 1.1c, 1.7a, 1.27a, 6.1, 6.11

## 9. Legislation

[Criminal Investigations Act 2006](#) (WA) Section 103: Who may do forensic procedure  
[Criminal Investigation \(Identifying People\) Regulations 2002](#) (WA) 4: Qualified Persons  
[Children and Community Services Act 2004](#) (WA) SECT 124B: Duties of certain people to report sexual abuse of children

## 10. References

SARC Medical and Forensic Manual; Sexual Assault Resource Centre, Department of Health, Western Australia, 2010 (Access restricted to trained staff)  
[SARC, Wee & Wipe poster and information sheet, Sexual Assault Resource Centre, Department of Health, Western Australia, 2013](#)  
[Identifying and responding to child abuse and neglect – A Guide for Professionals](#)

## 11. Related Forms

[MR3 SARC Emergency Care: History and Checklist](#)

## 12. Related Policy Documents

WACHS [Responding to Sexual Assault Policy](#)  
WACHS [Identifying, Preventing and Responding to Abuse of Older People Policy](#)

## 13. Related WA Health System Policies

OP 1928/05 [OP 1928/05 Coordinated Medical And Forensic Response to Those Experiencing a Recent Sexual Assault and Present to an Emergency Department](#)  
OD 0606/15 [OD 6060/15 Guidelines for Protecting Children 2015](#)

## 14. Policy Framework

[Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality](#)

## 15. Appendices

Appendix 1: [WACHS South West Emergency Department Sexual Assault - Presentation Procedure Flowchart](#)

Appendix 2: [WACHS South West Local Information Sheet for Emergency Department Sexual Assault Presentations](#)

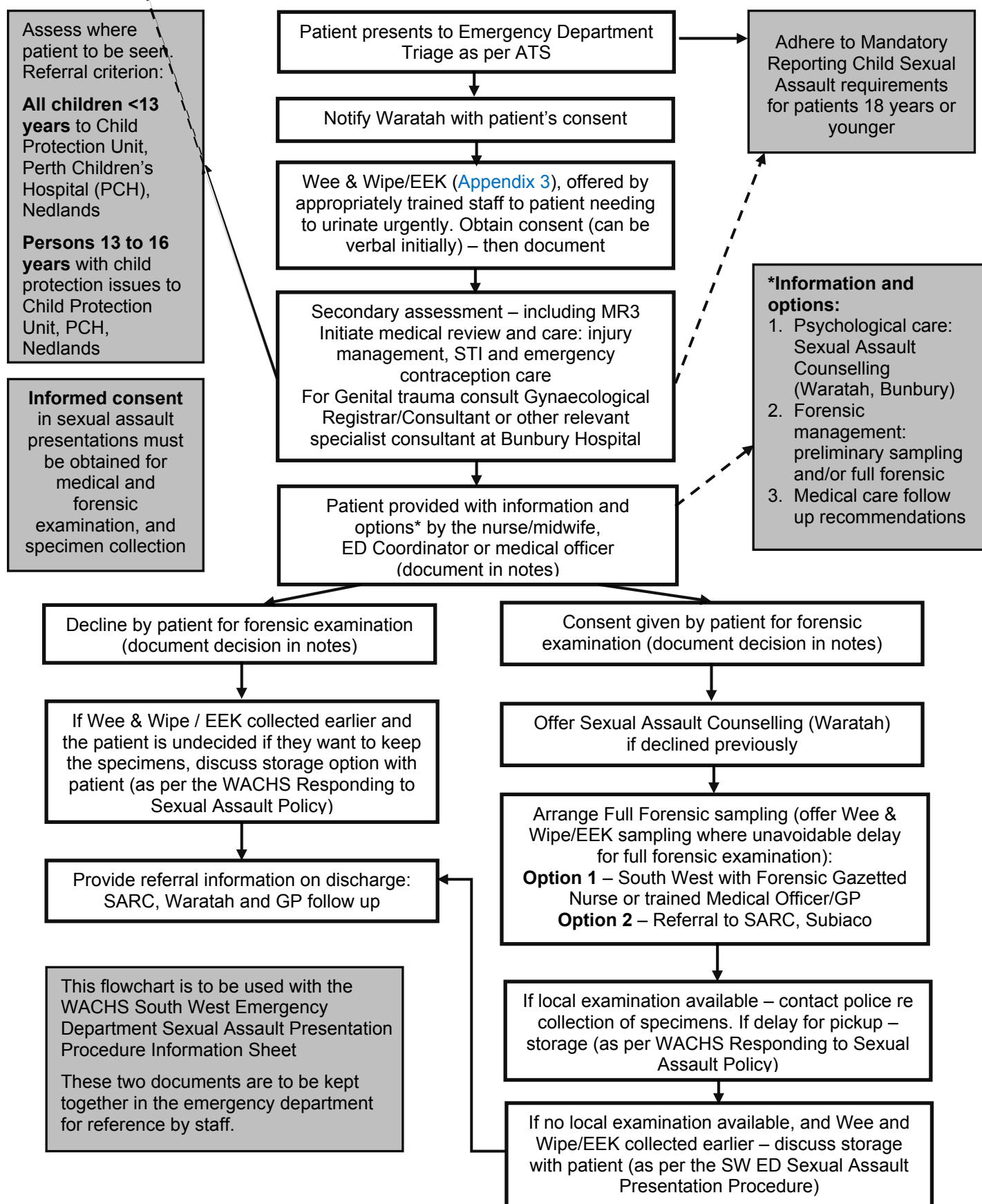
Appendix 3: [SARC, Wee & Wipe poster and information sheet, Sexual Assault Resource Centre, Department of Health, Western Australia, 2013](#)

**This document can be made available in alternative formats  
on request for a person with a disability**

<b>Contact:</b>	Regional Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services, WACHS South West (C Stainton)		
<b>Directorate:</b>	Nursing and Midwifery Services	<b>EDRMS Record #</b>	ED-CO-16-74936
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## Appendix 1: WACHS South West Emergency Department Sexual Assault - Presentation Procedure Flowchart



## Appendix 2: WACHS South West Local Information Sheet for Emergency Department Sexual Assault Presentations

This information sheet is to be used with the WACHS South West Emergency Department Sexual Assault Presentation Procedure Flowchart.

These two documents are to be kept together in the Emergency Department for reference by staff.

<b>Local Forensic Gazetted Nurse (FGN) name(s)</b>  (If no local FGN available – indicate this in the box and refer to the South West FGN availability list)	
<b>Waratah Support Centre</b>	9791 2884 (office hours) or 0438949628 (out of hours)
<b>Police – officer in charge SW Detectives</b>	0459 899 565 (this number is attended 24hrs a day)
<b>Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in Perth</b>	24 hour emergency line 1800 199 888 or (08) 6458 1828
<b>Other local counselling services</b>	
<b>Location of locally stored sensitive information on site</b>	
<b>Location of designated locked storage fridge/cupboard on site</b>	

**Appendix 3: SARC, Wee & Wipe poster and information sheet,  
Sexual Assault Resource Centre, Department of Health, Western  
Australia, 2013**

# Sexual Assault

**STEP**

**1.**

**PHONE SARC**

**for advice**

**9340 1828 (or KEMH switchboard)**

**STEP**

**2.**

**COLLECT**

**early evidence kit specimens**



**WEE**

**in a yellow top  
sterile pot**



**WIPE**

**the vulval area  
with sterile gauze  
+  
place in yellow top  
sterile pot**



(See over for more details)



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health

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## Early Evidence Kit Specimens (EEKs)

### Purpose:

Allow for patient comfort (while preventing evidence loss) prior to a forensic examination.  
Pre-made Early Evidence Kits (EEKs) contain all the required equipment and stationary.

*Alternatively standard hospital supplies can be used for the required equipment and stationary (in this document this is in italics).*

### EEKs stationary:

Labels (plain labels with Patient's name and D.O.B.) not patient labels which contain other personal information)

Consent Form (standard consent form)

A4 envelope for forensic specimens (plastic specimen container bags)

Red evidence label (a label with: patient name, D.O.B., collector's name, date, time)


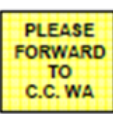

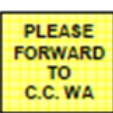
EEK forensic specimen list (record the specimens taken in patient's notes)

Bright yellow sticker: "Please Forward to C.C.WA" (for suspected drug facilitated assault add: forward to C.C. WA, to the urine specimen label)

### Consent:

Consent needs to be obtained prior to collection and handover of specimens. If indicated by clinical circumstances verbal consent / assent maybe obtained initially and, when the patient is able to, this should be followed with documented written consent prior to handover of specimens.

There is no need for the taking of these specimens to be observed

Sample / reason for collecting	Equipment	Procedure
<b>Oral rinse:</b> Following penetration of mouth by penis (even if no ejaculation), finger, object, biting the assailant	10 mls sterile water 1 yellow topped collection pot labelled: • oral rinse 1 pair of gloves	Patient to: wear gloves and hold pot, place sterile water in mouth, rinse thoroughly around mouth, spit fluid in to collection pot, replace top
<b>"Wee + wipe" (females)</b> (Urine (first part) and vulval wipe) Following penetration / attempted penetration of vagina by penis (even if no ejaculation), finger, object 	2 yellow topped collection pots labelled: • urine (first part) • vulval wipe Sterile gauze 1 pair of gloves Bright yellow sticker: 	Patient to be given items and go to the bathroom where they should: Put on gloves Pass first part of urine in to collection pot and replace top Use gauze to very gently wipe vulva and then place in the other collection pot, replace top Nurse / doctor to attach the bright yellow sticker / Label to the urine sample
<b>"Wee +wipe" (males)</b> Urine (first part) Following the patient's penis in contact with a mouth/body cavity 	2 yellow topped collection pots labelled: • urine (first part) • penile wipe 1 pair of gloves Sterile gauze 10mls sterile water Bright yellow sticker: 	Patient to be given items and go to the bathroom where they should: Put on gloves Pass first part of urine in to container and replace top Moisten gauze with water, wipe the shaft and tip of penis and place this gauze in the other collection pot, replace top Nurse / doctor to attach the bright yellow sticker / Label to the urine sample
<b>Peri-anal wipe</b> Following penetration / attempted penetration of anus by penis (even if no ejaculation), finger, object (if patient needs to open bowels)	1 yellow topped collection pot labelled: • peri-anal wipe Sterile gauze 1 pair of gloves 10 mls sterile water	Patient to be given items and go to the bathroom where they should: Put on gloves Moisten gauze with water and wipe around the outside of the anus and place this gauze in the collection pot, replace top
<b>Blood</b> Following suspected drug facilitated assault	2 fluoro-oxalate (grey-top) if available, or 2 EDTA (purple top) blood tubes labelled Sterile water	Clean skin with sterile water not alcohol wipe Collect blood Additionally document on the label the exact time of collection and the patient's weight
<b>Clothing</b> If patient required to change for clinical reasons	Large paper bags	Change gloves between items, place each item in a separate paper bag, seal each bag with a red evidence label / Label

**Handover:** Place all the specimens and a copy of the consent and specimen list in the envelope/plastic bag, securely seal it with the red evidence label / completed label, and sign across this with your name. Hand this either to the police or to the patient to bring to SARC, document in the notes.

**Please telephone SARC Doctor for advice (9340 1828 or via King Edward Memorial Hospital switchboard on 9340 2222)**