

MSH Dept of Emergency Medicine

Sexual Assault and Advocate Consult

Date Created: 3/8/2024

Date Reviewed: mm/dd/yyyy

Reviewed By: Kaitlyn Montgomery



Overview:

This process provides guidance on consulting a SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam) examiner and contacting Social Work. Social Work will call in a SAVI (Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention) Advocate. There is a Troubleshooter on call to help with any questions. Please see below for descriptions of their roles:

A **Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE)** evaluates patients who have experienced sexual assault. They can perform a kit to collect DNA evidence, collect blood and urine samples to test for drug-facilitated sexual assault, conduct a physical exam, take photographs of injuries, and provide consultation on appropriate post-exposure medications. The time frame for performing these steps is within 5 days post assault. SAFE examiners must be called for all cases of sexual assault within a 120-hour window.

A **Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention (SAVI) advocate** is a volunteer who can provide comfort and support to a patient after a sexual assault or an episode of intimate partner violence. They are available to provide assistance at any time frame following the assault.

A **Troubleshooter** is a team member from The Mount Sinai Hospital SAVI staff. They can provide assistance over the phone regarding questions related to the case, examiner or advocate intervention, consent, or other relevant matters.

The **Social Workers** will contact the **SAVI Advocate**.

Decision Tree/Workflow:

The provider in triage or frontline provider will contact the **SAFE Examiner and Social Worker**:

1. To contact the **SAFE**:
 - a. Sign into AMION.
 - b. Find ED SAFE/SAVI Program- MSH, MSQ.
 - c. Call SAFE examiner listed based on time of call (7am-7pm, 7pm-7am).
 - d. Contact the **Troubleshooter** listed if you have any questions based on time of call (8am-6pm, 6pm-8am).
 - e. Common questions for troubleshooter listed below:
 - Unable to reach SAFE examiner.
 - No SAFE examiner is listed.
 - Uncertainty regarding whether the patient requires a SAFE examination.
 - Uncertainty regarding the patient's ability to consent (e.g., patient's age, intoxication, dementia, etc.).
2. To contact the **Social Worker**:
 - a. Message MSH ED CORE SOCIAL WORK or page them at 0200 for immediate in-person 24/7 response.
 - b. The Social Worker will call the **SAVI Advocate**.

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Escalation

- For urgent patient care issues related to this process, please contact the troubleshooter listed on AMION.
- For general questions regarding the process, please contact SAFE Medical Director Kaitlyn Montgomery at Kaitlyn.Montgomery@mountsinai.org, 929-489-6538.