

Sexual Assault Care Unit of Lorain County

The SACU provides specialized health care to victims of acute sexual assault. As with other consultative health care services, forensic nurses have the education and experience to provide focused and immediate medical-legal care for patients presenting with complaints of acute violence. In addition, sexual assault nurse examiners are able to collect physical evidence and provide expert court testimony when needed.



Suites with either a pediatric or adult exam room, comfortable lounge area, shower facility all in one area for comfort and privacy.

The SACU is NOT a crisis center, counseling center or a law enforcement agency. SACU nurses advocate for their patients as health care providers, but are not professional victim advocates. Crisis advocates are available for both adult and children. The SACU has no affiliation with any law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office, although collaboration may occur in the course of providing direct patient care.

Program Mission

To meet the Medical Legal Forensic needs of the sexual assault/abuse victim by providing compassionate, confidential and specialized care by trained professional nurse experts. To increase awareness of the health care implications of violence through outreach to community groups, agencies and organizations.

Eligibility

Medical Legal Services are available to pediatric, adolescent and adult victims of acute sexual assault (adolescent and adult victims within 96 hours). Since no patient is ever charged for patient care services, economic resources and insurance status are not factors in assessing care. Patients may be referred to the SACU by physician offices, health care institutions, community agencies, law enforcement or by anyone in the community. Services are also available without a referral. SACU services are available 24/7 on a walk-in basis at the 6140 S Broadway location. Crisis advocates are available for both adult and children.

Medical Legal Services Offered

Medical Legal Services include a focused health history, detailed history of assault, and head-to-toe physical evidence collection as appropriate. Also included are personalized safety and discharge planning, including referrals to other community agencies. Prophylactic medications for sexually transmitted diseases may be provided for victims of sexual assault.