

## **CLINIC-BASED CARE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**

### **Post sexual assault care offered at Vancouver General Hospital Emergency (VGH) and UBC Urgent Care by the Sexual Assault Service (SAS):**

Any patient 13 years or older who has been sexually assaulted within the past 7 days can be seen by the Sexual Assault Service (SAS) at VGH Emergency or UBC Urgent Care. This SAS is available 24 hours a day. At the hospital, the patient is offered emotional support, health care services, as well as a discussion of their legal options, including forensic sample collection. All medications are offered free of charge and a Carecard is **not** required to access the service.

For a variety of reasons, some sexual assault survivors do not want to go to a hospital after a sexual assault. The following is an outline of the care that can and cannot be offered to survivors of sexual assault at a doctor's office/outpatient clinic:

#### **Care that can be offered at a doctor's office/outpatient clinic includes:**

- Emotional support
- Physical assessment and treatment of injuries
- Pregnancy prevention – Plan B can be given up to 5 days post sexual assault.
- Women weighing greater than 75 kg or women presenting greater than 5 days after the sexual assault, should be offered Plan B and referred to an IUD insertion clinic for emergency contraception. A copper IUD can be inserted up to 7 days following a sexual assault.
- Prophylactic treatment for STIs:  
Chlamydia - Azithromycin 1000mg P.O stat or Doxycycline 100mg P.O twice a day for 7 days  
Gonorrhea - Cefixime 800mg P.O stat  
(Alternate antibiotics to be given in the event of medication allergies or pregnancy)
- Hepatitis B vaccination
- Referral information to SAS and/or support services, e.g. WAVAW (Women Against Violence Against Women) Crisis Centre or UBC Sexual Assault Support Centre

#### **The SAS provides all of the above care, as well as the following care options, which are not available at most doctor's offices/outpatient clinics:**

- Care by nurses and doctors with specialized training in the area of sexual assault
- Forensic exam (documentation of injuries and forensic sample collection)
- A written forensic report
- Drug and alcohol screening tests for patients concerned about having been drugged. (This is time sensitive and different options apply depending on whether the patient is reporting to police or not)
- HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). This is offered in very high risk exposure situations. The patient should ideally be seen by the SAS, an ER, or a clinic with the ability to dispense PEP, within 72 hours
- Hepatitis B immune globulin - can be given within 14 days post sexual assault but is available only from a hospital bloodbank