

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL	
Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: May 30, 2010
Topic: 4. Operations Directives	Replaces: July 1, 2004
Subject: 30. Victims of Violence/Abuse	
Policy No. G.4.30.	Page 1 of 3

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines to EMAs/Paramedics for the transportation of victims of Assault, Abuse and/or Violence.

APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMAs, Management

PROCEDURE

Victims of abuse need to be treated with dignity, respect and discretion.

1) Child in Need of Protection

If a Paramedic reasonably believes a child is in need of protection and/or has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child has suffered or is likely to suffer abuse or harm (whether such abuse or harm is physical, sexual or emotional, or arises from someone's failure to act or a pattern of neglect, etc.), the paramedic will immediately and directly report their suspicion and the information on which it is based to the Children's Aid Society. The failure to report a reasonable suspicion in the circumstances set out in the Child and Family Services Act is an offence under that Act.

- Abuse must be reported regardless of acceptance or refusal of transportation.
- Refer to the Basic Life Support and patient Care Manual, Section 6-7 Child Abuse (suspect) for more information on how to recognize Child Abuse.
- Appropriate notation must be made on the ACR and Incident Report

2) Sexual Assault (Suspected)

- Ensure the patient is not left alone.
- Request police assistance at the scene.
- Ensure privacy whenever possible.
- When possible, have the history and physical performed by a paramedic of the same gender as the patient.
- Ask the patient if they wish to discuss the incident; if they do not, confine questioning to details of injuries received and activities occurring since the incident, in particular, bathing, voiding and changing clothes.
- If the patient is a child, question the parent(s), guardian or other bystanders, not the child.

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- Examine the perineal area only if on-going hemorrhage is obvious; inspect for bleeding sites and soft tissue injuries around the thighs, buttocks and abdomen
- Carefully bag and transport the patient's clothing with the patient.
- Advise the patient not to bathe, defecate, douche, void or change clothing unless absolutely necessary. Explain the need to preserve evidence.
- On completion of the call, bag the stretcher linen, dressings, and other materials in contact with the patient, and leave at the receiving facility for attending police officer(s), along with the patient's clothing.
- Document all findings and procedures - everything that was seen and examined and all interventions that were performed.
- Refer to the Basic Life Support and patient Care Manual, Section 3-38 Sexual Assault (suspect) for more specific information sexual assault situations.

3) Elder Abuse (Suspected)

The Paramedic should be wary of elder abuse in situations where; injuries are unusual or in unusual locations, events don't match the injuries, behavior doesn't match the patients history or situation, signs of neglect or sexual abuse exist.

- Attempt to build rapport with the patient before questioning them about abuse or neglect.
- If the paramedic suspects abuse, question the patient using plain language and in a non-judgmental fashion.
- Attempt to identify the patient's level of isolation by asking about what activities they participate in.
- Alert hospital staff of any suspicions of elder abuse.
- If the patient requests the paramedic report the abuse, contact the police.
- If the patient refuses any formal help, attempt to provide the patient with community resource contacts e.g. victim services, Community Care Access Centre.
- Document suspicions on the ACR and consider completing an incident report.

4) Persons who are in custody or stand accused of such violence and/or abuse or other criminal act, must be treated in a professional manner by EMAs/Paramedics.

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REFERENCE

Emergency Health Services Branch (2007), *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standard, Version 2.0*, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

Child and Family Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.11. Section 72

Children's Aid Society of Sudbury and Manitoulin Districts

Sudbury Location
 319 Lasalle Boulevard, Unit 3
 Sudbury, ON
 P3A 1W7
 Toll Free: 1-877-272-4334
 Phone Number: (705) 566-3113
 Fax Number: (705) 521-7372

Manitoulin Location
 9050 Hwy 6, Suite E
 Little Current, ON
 P0P 1K0
 Toll Free: 1-800-461-3583
 Phone Number: (705) 368-2810
 Fax Number: (705) 368-3200

Chapleau Location
 34 Birch Street East
 Chapleau, ON
 P0M 1K0
 Phone Number: (705) 864-0329
 Fax Number: (705) 864-2133