

Victim Intervention Program SAFE Program

The **NYP Victim Intervention Program's Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Program** uses an interdisciplinary approach to meet the needs of survivors of sexual assault. We are dedicated to providing excellent medical care, as well as expert forensic examination, to all survivors. The goal of **The SAFE Program** is to reduce further trauma to survivors of sexual assault who present in the Emergency Department, by providing compassionate, client-centered services that address both the physical and psychological trauma often experienced following a sexual assault.

What is a SAFE Examiner?

Sexual assault examinations require the integration of specialized knowledge regarding sexual assaults in addition to specialized health care treatment, forensic science and criminal justice. This knowledge is not often included in basic education in medical and nursing curricula.

SAFE Examiners are medical professionals currently licensed as a:

- ◆ Registered Nurse
- ◆ Nurse Practitioner
- ◆ Physician
- ◆ Physician Assistant

SAFEs receive comprehensive training to facilitate best-practice medical and psychological care for the treatment of survivors of sexual assault.

What Happens During a SAFE Exam?

When a survivor of sexual assault comes to the Emergency Department of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill-Cornell Medical Center, an on-call **SAFE Examiner** responds within 60 minutes. A **SAFE** then works with that survivor to supportively explain all options available to her/him (including medications, medical exam, forensic evidence collection). Depending on which options a survivor chooses for herself/himself, the **SAFE** is expertly trained to perform a comprehensive physical examination and forensic evidence collection kit using highly specialized equipment.

Additional Qualifications of SAFE Examiners

In addition to receiving training on how to provide supportive and empathic medical and forensic care to the survivor of sexual assault, **SAFE Examiners** are also trained to offer expert witness testimony in sexual assault legal proceedings – a crucial step in the judicial process of prosecuting perpetrators of sexual assault. **SAFE Examiners** work collaboratively with the District Attorney's Office, as well as NYPD.

Why Choose Care From A SAFE Program?

Not every hospital in New York City operates a **SAFE Program**. This means that sexual assault examinations are often performed by medical professionals who have not received this specialized training to work with survivors of sexual assault. The Victim Intervention Program's certified **SAFE Examiners** are on-call to respond to the Emergency Department of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill-Cornell Medical Center, where they are able to give survivors their undivided attention. This translates into individual, focused, supportive care for survivors of sexual assault.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SAFE EXAMINER WITH NYP WEILL CORNELL, PLEASE CONTACT THE VICTIM INTERVENTION PROGRAM AT sar9110@nyp.org or 212-746-4327.