



# Coming to the Hospital for a Sexual Assault Exam

If you've been a victim of sexual assault, it's not your fault.

We know it may be hard for you to come to the hospital for an exam. Vanderbilt Health has specially trained nurses called Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) to support you during your visit. This brochure will help you know what to expect if you come for an exam.

We're here for you.

## Where do I get an exam?

- If you're 18 or older, go to Vanderbilt University Medical Center Adult Hospital Emergency Department.
- If you're 17 or younger, go to Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt Emergency Department.
- We see all ages at Vanderbilt Bedford County Hospital, Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Emergency Department, and Vanderbilt Wilson County Emergency Department.
- Please Note: If you're 15 or younger, a nurse from *Our Kids* will do the exam.

## How soon do I need to get an exam?

You need to have the exam within 5 days after the assault.

## Can I bring someone with me?

Yes, you can bring a support person with you.

We also work with the Sexual Assault Center of Nashville to help provide a hospital advocate to be with you during the visit. Sometimes they're with you virtually and sometimes they're with you in person.



## What happens during the exam?

You'll have the exam in a private space in the Emergency Room. Before they start, a SANE nurse will tell you everything that's going to happen. You can choose to do all of the exam or only parts of the exam.

The exam includes:

- your medical history
- history of the assault
- head to toe exam of your body
- evidence collection
- photography
- tests for STD and pregnancy
- STD and pregnancy prevention
- and labs.

## What happens after the exam?

We'll talk with you about:

- safety plans
- counseling services
- legal services and police reports
- and other appointments you may need.

## Who will I talk to at the hospital?

You'll talk to different members of our care team. These may include a doctor, nurse, forensic nurse, and social worker. We're all here to help you.

## Will I have to talk to the police?

No. You can get the exam without talking to the police. There will be times state law requires that we report this assault.

## Will I have to pay for the exam?

No. By law, the state pays for these exams, labs, and medicines.

*If you get other treatment outside of what's paid for by the state, you might qualify for victim's compensation. We can tell you about this program.*

## If you have questions

The SANE care team is here to support you with any questions you may have when you get home.

Call the SANE care team at (615) 936-5887.