SANE Training- Women and Infants Training May 21, 2012
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Child Protection Program (CPP)
Hasbro Children's Hospital (HCH)

Children (even teenagers!) are not just small adults

- Developmentally and emotionally different responses to trauma
- Require expertise with physical examination
- May require experience with interviewing techniques
- Sexual assault characteristics often distinct from adults
    - Less likely to have physical evidence on anal/genital exam
    - Less likely to have physical injuries
    - More likely to know the perpetrator
    - Less likely to provide an immediate disclosure
- Effective legal testimony should addresses the above differences
- Teenagers are at particularly high risk for sexual assault
    - Female teens <15 are 6 times as likely to have a male partner over 20

Children <16 years of age who present for evaluation of acute sexual assault should be transferred to Hasbro Children's Hospital

Rhode Island Laws for sexual activity of minors

- Age of consent (age at which one can consent legally to sexual activity)→ 16
- Teens 14-17 years of age may engage in consensual sexual activity with each other without any legal consequences. This means:
    - Having sex with someone less than 14 years of age is illegal under any circumstances and carries more severe criminal consequences (child molestation)
    - It is illegal for persons 18 years of age or older to engage in sexual activity with 14-15 year olds (third degree sexual assault)

Forced sexual activity under any circumstances is a crime regardless of age- the above are RI specific details that influence criminal prosecution and sentencing.

Hasbro Children's Hospital/Child Protection Program Sexual Assault Protocol

- The on-call physician for the CPP is notified for all patient s who present to HCH for the evaluation of sexual assault
- Most patient's evaluated for sexual assault in the emergency department at HCH are seen in follow-up in the CPP outpatient clinic
- The CPP will manage all patients started on HIV PEP in follow-up

The on-call physician for CPP may be paged for phone consultation for all patients who present for sexual assault evaluations at Women and Infant's Hospital (or other hospitals)

It is recommended that all patients <18 years of age should be referred to the Child Protection Program Outpatient clinic (Child Safe) in order to:

- Provide reassurance regarding physical trauma
- Refer and ensure mental health follow-up with trained providers
- Interface with law enforcement and the legal system if necessary
- Assess mental health status including sleeplessness, school avoidance and suicidality.

Contact Information:
Child Protection Program
593 Eddy Street
Potter Basement
Providence, RI 02903
(401)444-3996→ Monday – Friday 8:30 am- 5:00 pm
(401)444-4000→ Nights, weekends and holidays, ask for the Child Protection Program physician on call