HEALTH SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

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Health Care Practitioners are part of the multi-disciplinary team working together in the management of survivors of crime and violence
Evidence given by Health Care Practitioners plays a crucial role in assisting the court in deciding on prosecuting the perpetrator.
PATIENTS RIGHTS CHARTER

- A healthy and safe environment
- Participation in decision-making
- Access to healthcare
- Knowledge of one’s health insurance/medical aid scheme
- Choice of health services
- Be treated by a named health care provider
- Confidentiality and privacy
- Informed consent
- Refusal of treatment
- Be referred for second opinion
- Continuity of care
- Complaint about health services
Available services for victims of crime

- Examine complaints of sexual assaults
- Examination of perpetrators of sexual assaults
- Examine children for signs of alleged abuse
- Examine suspects for driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs
- Examine accused in homicide cases
- Examine victims for physical assaults
Available services for victims of crime

Visit crime scenes, evidence collection and documentation

- Age assessments for medico-legal purposes
- Examine complaints of domestic violence
- General wound identification to find cause factors
Right to be treated with dignity, fairness, respect and privacy

All victims of crime and violence are examined in either dedicated centres, Thuthuzela or One stop centre.

- Samples are collected from the victim using either crime/rape kit for Forensic testing and chain of custody is maintained.
Right to be treated with dignity, fairness, respect and privacy

- Victims are treated with dignity and privacy and timeously.
- Treatment is such that it prevents secondary victimisation.
Right to be treated with dignity, fairness, respect and privacy

- Mental health rights
  - Right to be assessed properly for mental health status
  - Right to be treated with respect and Human dignity
  - Right to give concern to treatment
Right to offer and receive information

- Victims are encouraged to offer as much information as possible to the health practitioner
- Children are given toys in the special children consulting rooms to make them more comfortable to open up
- Elderly and disabled victims are given special care
- Mental health: Information about their care, treatment & rehabilitation

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Right to offer and receive information

- Victims are counseled and advised on issues such:
  - Taking blood for HIV testing and results
  - PEP
  - Referral systems
  - Follow-up systems
  - Opening a case with SAPS

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The right to be protected

- All victims that are treated in the centres are also protected from the perpetrator/s, they do not share the same rooms.
- During transportation of Victims, they are transported alone and not together with the perpetrator.
- Mental ill: Protected from exploitations, abuse and degrading treatment.
Information collection

- J88 form is completed by the assessor.
### REPORT BY AUTHORISED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER ON THE COMPLETION OF A MEDICO-LEGAL EXAMINATION

**To be completed in legible handwriting and signed on every page**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION</th>
<th>B.</th>
<th>C.</th>
<th>D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Full Names of person examined</td>
<td>2. Police Station</td>
<td>3. CAS No.</td>
<td>4. Date of birth/apparent age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Name of Medical Practitioner</td>
<td>6. Registered qualifications</td>
<td>7. Date of birth</td>
<td>8. Phone number</td>
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</tbody>
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Forensic Chemistry laboratories

- Samples are tested depending on what the test is for
- Results are compiled for the health practitioner to give evidence in Court as a witness.
- Access to the laboratories is restricted to avoid doctoring of results by any of the parties (Protection of victims)
Victims are given opportunities to ask for assistance where relevant.

Victims with special needs are accommodated e.g. elderly, disabled, and children.
CONCLUSION

- Health care facilities are user friendly for all victims
- Health Care Practitioners are trained on CFM services
- More CFM facilities are to be established to improve accessibility to the service
THANK YOU