

Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault ALERT SHEET

What is it?

Rape or sexual assault facilitated by the use of drugs to incapacitate the victim.

What are the signs?

- ▶ Memory loss including “snapshots” or “cameo memories”
- ▶ Confusion
- ▶ Impaired motor skills
- ▶ Reduced inhibition
- ▶ Dizziness
- ▶ Drowsiness/ “snapping” neck
- ▶ Impaired judgment
- ▶ Intoxication disproportionate to the amount of alcohol consumed

How do I determine if a sexual assault may have been drug facilitated?

Be aware of the following scenarios that may point to the possibility that the victim was drugged:

- ▶ The victim remembers taking a drink but cannot recall what happened for a period of time after consuming the beverage.
- ▶ The victim feels a lot more intoxicated than her/his usual response to the amount of alcohol consumed or feels intoxicated after drinking a non-alcoholic beverage.
- ▶ The victim woke up feeling “hung over” or “fuzzy,” experiencing memory lapses and unable to account for a period of time.
- ▶ The victim feels as though someone had sex with her/him, but cannot recall any or all of the incident.
- ▶ The victim wakes up in a strange or different location without knowing how she/he got there.
- ▶ The victim’s clothes are absent, inside out, disheveled, or not hers/his.
- ▶ The victim has “snapshots” or “cameo memories.”

What do I do if I recognize the possibility of drug facilitated sexual assault?

You can use the Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA) kit, developed by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). But remember:

- ▶ The collection must be done within 96 hours of the ingestion of the suspected drug.
- ▶ You must obtain permission from the victim (a consent form is included in the DFSA kit).
- ▶ The victim’s first urine is critical. If a pregnancy test is done as part of the routine exam, do not throw out any leftover urine.
- ▶ Do not use the clean catch method of urine collection.
- ▶ Collect as much urine as possible, up to 100ml.
- ▶ Be sure to complete the forensic exam using the NYS sexual offense evidence collection kit before using the DFSA kit.

What if our hospital does not have any DFSA kits available?

- ▶ Use two gray top blood tubes and a standard sterile urine collection cup to obtain the samples. You still must obtain a signed consent from the victim.
- ▶ A copy of the ‘*Authorization for Release of Sexual Assault Drug Screen*’ are available online www.criminaljustice.ny.gov or through DCJS Violence Against Women Unit at **(518) 457-9726**.
- ▶ Do not include the DFSA samples in the NYS Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit used to do the forensic exam.