

## Let us help support you

- Call Sechelt Hospital Emergency Department, ask to meet with a forensic health care provider
- Come to the Emergency Department
- Call Victim Services
- Call the Police

## Resources

Community Based Victim Services  
604-885-0322

Police Based Victim Services  
604-885-5554

Yew Transition House  
604-885-2944

Women's Outreach Program  
604-741-5246

BC Crisis Centre  
1-866-661-3311

Sechelt Hospital  
604-885-2224

## We are here for YOU

Sexual assault is any unwanted sexual activity (grabbing, kissing, fondling, rape).

Our goal is to help those who have experienced sexualized violence by offering **medical care, resources, and medical-legal support** in a non-judgmental manner, ensuring you get the care you need.

A **Forensic Health Care Provider** is a specially trained health care professional (a nurse or doctor) who will provide assessment, support and offer to collect evidence.

Coming in to be assessed **DOES NOT MEAN** you have to report to police.

Our goal is to provide you with support so you can make decision about **YOUR** health care.

---

We recognize that our places of work and the VCH facilities lie on the traditional homelands of the fourteen First Nation Communities of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo-Xai'xais, Lil'wat, Musqueam, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, Sechelt, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tseil-Waututh, Wuikinuxv, and Xa'xtsa.



Making better  
decisions together  
with patients  
and families

For more copies, go online at [vch.eduhealth.ca](http://vch.eduhealth.ca) or email [phem@vch.ca](mailto:phem@vch.ca) and quote Catalogue No. **CE.817.H38**  
© Vancouver Coastal Health, August 2021

The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.  
[vch.ca](http://vch.ca)

# Medical-Forensic Services for Sexual Assault

» We are healthcare providers specializing in sexualized violence through Sechelt Hospital



# We are *healthcare providers* specializing in sexualized violence through Sechelt Hospital.



## Have you experienced sexual violence?

We are here to help. We can guide you through this traumatic experience, help you regain control over your own body, and support you to be healthy and safe. We can offer you medications to prevent pregnancy, sexually transmitted infection, and offer diagnostic testing.

We will offer resources for follow up care, community supports, and can support you with communicating and reporting to police, if you choose to do so.

## How the Process Works

**Present to the Emergency Department:** you will be registered as a patient, when asked for a visit reason, you can simply state “personal”.

**Triage:** you will be seen by an Emergency Department nurse, you do not have to disclose the full incident, they will be checking for physical injuries to make sure you are safe. You can then ask to see a forensic nurse.

**Waiting:** you will likely have to wait for the forensic nurse to respond to the hospital as we are not onsite 24/7. You will either be placed in a quiet room or in the waiting room, depending on available space. We can offer to contact a support person to wait with you while the Forensic Provider comes onsite.

**Exam:** The forensic provider and Emergency Department physician will come in to see you and listen to your report of the event. You will then choose to consent to one of the three options for care listed in the next column. The assessment will begin and may take a few hours to complete.

**Resources:** You may be offered medications, and information for follow up and resources. We will assist with ensuring you have a safe place to go to after the examination.

## Consent for Care

We will ask for YOUR consent to 1 of 3 options of care:

1. **Medical Care:** We will offer a physical assessment, medications to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection, offer to collect urine and blood samples, and provide resources for follow up
2. **Stored Forensic Exam:** We will offer everything in the first option as well as collect swabs from relevant body parts, with your consent. You may choose to provide urine, blood samples and clothing. Samples will be stored up to 1 year while you decide if you want to report the assault.
3. **Report to Police:** We complete a full medical exam (option 1) as well as a forensic exam (option 2) with sample and a report sent to police.