

A. Initial Contact

The following procedure is designed to focus on specific needs, and the proper treatment and transport for victims of a possible sexual assault/battery. These patients will have suffered through both physical and/or mental trauma, therefore must be treated with care and compassion in all aspects of the interaction with Miami Dade Fire Rescue Personnel. The treatment and transport of these patients will also differ from traditional trauma related incidents. An EMS Report will be completed on all encounters of this nature.

EMR/BLS

B. General Care

1. Initial assessment will be done in accordance with Protocol 1, Protocol 1P. These patients may be traumatized by the experience, so use compassion and best judgment to convince the patient to allow for assessment and treatment. Document any assessments or treatments not allowed by the patient.

Note: The scene of a possible sexual assault/ battery must be considered a possible crime scene and must be left undisturbed as much as possible.

2. The patient may have evidence on themselves or at the scene that will be useful to the Police AHJ and must be preserved in accordance with Law Enforcement direction and recommendations.
3. No treatments and/or transports will be withheld at the detriment of a patient's wellbeing, for the sole reason of evidence collection.
4. Treatment of medical conditions and traumatic injuries will be done in accordance with all MDFR protocols that apply to specific injuries and/or conditions discovered during the Initial Assessment and Detailed Assessment.
5. Once assessments and treatments have been completed, refer to the Transport Criteria and Special Considerations section of this protocol to determine next appropriate action.

C. Transport Determination

1. If the patient is determined to have life threatening injuries and meets the ALS unstable criteria or the patient appears to be in acute distress in need of immediate medical attention at an Emergency Department, the patient will be transported by MDFR ALS Rescue to the closest appropriate facility for further treatment.



2. If the patient meets ALS Stable criteria or BLS criteria and does not appear to be in distress, the patient will be transported by ALS Rescue or BLS Ambulance to the facility determined most appropriate by both MDFR Personnel and the Police Department AHJ. Refer to Protocol 4 for the proper method of transport. This may include direct transport to **HCA Kendall Hospital or Jackson Memorial Main Campus, where the only Rape Crisis Center in Miami Dade County is located.**

3. If the patient does not state any further medical complaints or needs and does not require ALS or BLS treatment and/or transport, work with the Police Department AHJ to determine the method of getting the patient to the appropriate treatment facility. This may require transport without medical need. Under No Circumstance will a patient be left on scene without a final determination of further transport needs (Transported by MDFR ALS, BLS Ambulance, Police Transport, ETC.). Document the final decision on the narrative portion of the EMS Report.

A. If the patient is determined to be a candidate for a Rape Kit, the OIC will confirm with the possible transport destination that a kit is available, and that there is someone on staff capable of administering this kit. Document if the transport destination is not capable, causing a different destination.

B. MDFR Personnel are expected to be advocates for the patient and will determine and support the appropriate decision for facility and method of transport. This will include the requests of the patients, who may feel more comfortable with one method of transport versus another.

C. If there is a conflict in destination or transport method between Police AHJ and MDFR Personnel, contact a Field Supervisor for assistance. EMS Field Supervisors decision will be final.

D. Special Considerations

1. If police have not made an arrival or have not been contacted upon discovery of a possible sexual assault/ battery patient, ensure scene safety and collect as much information about the incident as possible. This information will be useful to responding PD units for investigations.
2. If the patient has been a victim of a possible sexual assault/ battery, advise the patient not to shower or remove clothing. This will allow for a better outcome of the upcoming investigation.



3. If the location of response is the location in which the incident may have occurred, attempt to leave the scene as undisturbed as possible. Move the patient to a safe and comfortable location for further evaluation and treatment if possible.
4. Share all findings of the initial scene conditions and patient statements with investigating PD without violating HIPPA. If there are any questions, contact an EMS Field Supervisor for guidance.