DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: **SEXUAL ASSAULT PATIENT DESTINATION**

(EMT, PARAMEDIC, MICN)
REFERENCE NO. 508

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for transporting patients who are alleged victims of sexual assault to the most accessible medical facility appropriate to their needs.

DEFINITION:

Sexual Assault Patient: A person who states they were sexually assaulted or a person suspected by the 9-1-1 personnel to have been the victim of a sexual assault.

SART: Sexual Assault Response Team - a coordinated interdisciplinary intervention model between law enforcement, crime laboratory, District Attorney's Office, medical and advocacy experts to meet the forensic needs of the criminal justice system and the medical and emotional needs of the sexual assault patient.

SART Center: A licensed general acute care hospital, a licensed basic or comprehensive emergency department or a hospital sponsored program clinic that has met the specific requirements approved by the County of Los Angeles to receive patients who are victims of sexual assault.

PRINCIPLE:

When considering which facility is most appropriate to the needs of the sexual assault patient, the importance of evidence collection for legal proceedings should be one of the factors considered. However, in all cases, the health and well-being of the patient is the overriding consideration in determining hospital destination.

POLICY:

I. Sexual assault patients who deny physical injuries and who do not meet base hospital contact and transport criteria may be released at the scene to the local law enforcement agency for appropriate follow-up. Law enforcement personnel are highly encouraged to transport these patients to a designated SART Center. EMS personnel shall document on the EMS Report Form to whom the patient was released.

II. Every effort should be made to transport sexual assault patients who meet base hospital contact and transport criteria to a specialty care center that has an affiliated designated SART Center. If EMS personnel determine that such a transport would unreasonably remove the transport unit from its primary response area, the patient should be transported to the most accessible receiving (MAR) facility.

III. EMS personnel shall notify the local law enforcement agency of sexual assault patients regardless of whether the patient complains of physical injuries. EMS personnel shall document on the EMS Report Form to whom the incident was reported.

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CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Manual:
Ref. No. 501, **Hospital Directory**
Ref. No. 502, **Patient Destination**
Ref. No. 503, **Guidelines for Hospitals Requesting Diversion of ALS Units**
Ref. No. 506, **Trauma Triage**
Ref. No. 508.1 **SART Center Roster**
Ref. No. 510, **Pediatric Patient Destination**
Ref. No. 511, **Perinatal Patient Destination**
Ref. No. 808, **Base Hospital Contact and Transport Criteria**