

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
- ▶ impaired judgement
- ▶ 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:

- ▶ If the victim remembers taking a drink but cannot recall what happened for a period of time after consuming the beverage.
- ▶ If 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.
- ▶ If the victim woke up feeling “hung over” or “fuzzy”, experiencing memory lapses and unable to account for a period of time.
- ▶ If the victim feels as though someone had sex with her/him, but cannot recall any or all of the incident.
- ▶ If the victim wakes up in a strange or different location without knowing how she/he got there.
- ▶ If the victim's clothes are absent, inside out, disheveled, or not hers/his.
- ▶ If 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 Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Kit.**

What if our hospital does not have any Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Kits available?

Use 2 gray top blood tubes and a standard sterile urine collection cup to obtain the samples. You must also obtain a signed consent from the victim. If your hospital does not have a copy of the *Authorization for Release of Sexual Assault Drug Screen*, you can obtain one by calling the DCJS Violence Against Women Unit at (518) 457-9726, or you can access it 24 hours a day on our website at www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us. **Do not include the DFSA samples in the NYS Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit used to do the forensic exam.**

Please consult with your nearest forensic lab for information about where to send the samples for testing.