



Santa Clara Valley Healthcare
County of Santa Clara Health System
751 South Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128
Tel: 408-885-4010 | Fax: 408-793-1817 | Web: scvmc.org

DATE: January 27, 2023

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

DocuSigned by: Paul Lorenz 1/27/2023
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FROM: Paul Lorenz, Chief Executive Officer, Santa Clara Valley Healthcare

SUBJECT: Report Back on Engaging Private Hospitals in the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Program Loss of Awareness or Consciousness Protocol

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on December 13, 2022 (Item No. 19), at the request of Supervisor Chavez, the Board directed Santa Clara Valley Healthcare (SCVH) to provide an off-agenda report in 30 days relating to a plan for engaging private hospitals in the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Program Loss of Awareness or Consciousness Protocol.

The SAFE Program Loss of Awareness or Consciousness Protocol (Protocol) provides a guideline for Emergency Departments (EDs) to obtain urine toxicology samples in Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA) cases for patients 12 and older. Protocol training of hospital staff at SAFE response ED locations, SCVH and Stanford Health Care, has been completed. Protocol training include information on how to collect first urine samples for patients, document them, and preserve them for the SAFE examiner or law enforcement to manage.

Developing and providing online resources is being led by the Domestic Violence (DV) Medical Committee which meets twice a month to discuss and compile the resources to implement an effective SAFE program and to engage with private hospitals within Santa Clara County. One of the goals of the DV Medical Committee is to help ensure that all hospitals and clinic providers within Santa Clara County will have access to the SAFE Program protocols and is developing strategies to ensure this information is easily accessible to community providers. These online resources will be available by the end of March 2023 so that private hospital staff can review the workflow, protocol, and requirements.

To help facilitate communication and training of hospitals in the county on these DFSA protocols, the SCVH SAFE team will conduct two webinars during the summer of 2023

that will be promoted to ED staff at Kaiser, El Camino Hospital (Los Gatos and Mountain View), Regional Medical Center, and Good Samaritan Hospital.

cc: Chief Board Aides  
Greta S. Hansen, Chief Operating Officer  
James R. Williams, County Counsel  
Tiffany Lennear, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Mary Ann Barrous, Agenda Review Administrator  
Jason McCluskey, Budget and Public Policy Analyst  
Shawn Whiteman, Program Manager II