

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Program



GBMC is the **ONLY** hospital in Baltimore County that provides medical-forensic sexual assault treatment for adolescent and adult victims.

GBMC is the **ONLY** hospital in Baltimore County and Harford County that provides medical-forensic sexual abuse treatment for children 12 and under.

FOR INFORMATION
443-849-3323
www.gbmc.org/safe

Health. Healing. Hope.

The mission of GBMC is to provide medical care and service of the highest quality to each patient leading to *health, healing and hope.*

VISION

To every patient, every time, we will provide the care that we would want for our own loved ones.

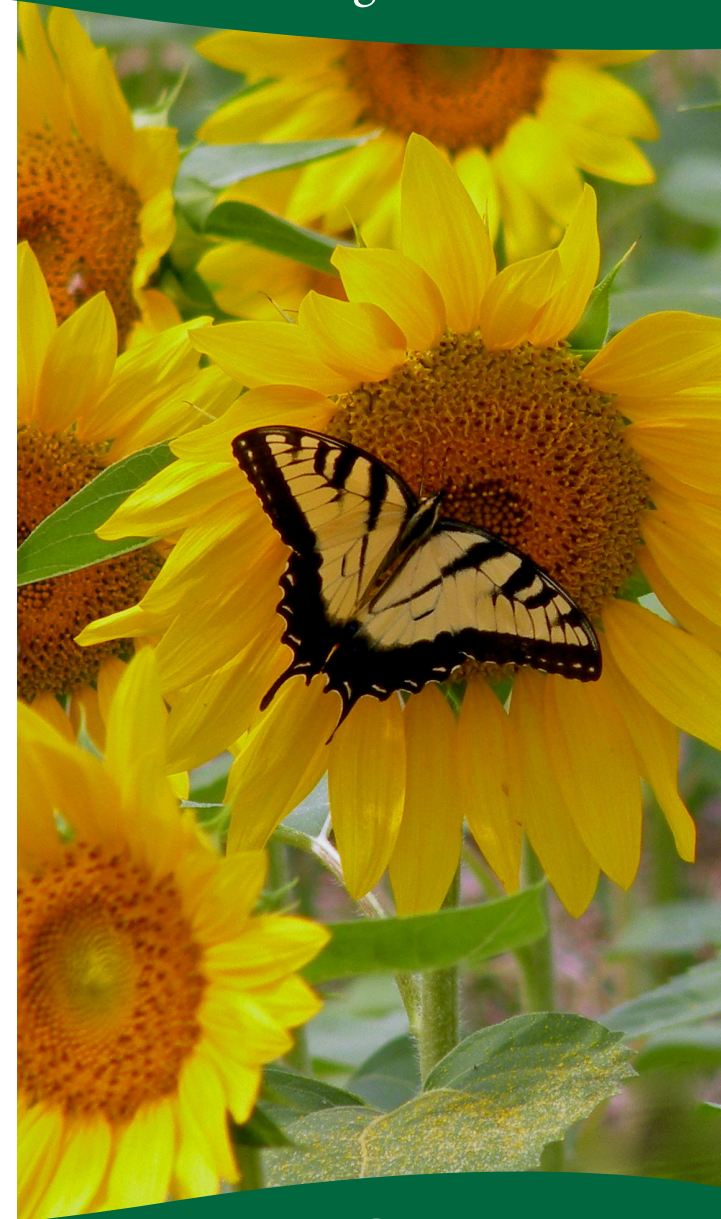
GREATER VALUES

The values of GBMC are our GREATER Values of *Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Teamwork, Ethical Behavior* and *Results.*

GBMC

6701 NORTH CHARLES STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21204

GBMC HealthCare includes Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Greater Baltimore Medical Associates, GBMC Health Partners, Gilchrist and the GBMC Foundation.



EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
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GBMC



Program Overview

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examination and Domestic Violence (SAFE & DV) Program at GBMC is committed to providing compassionate and confidential medical, forensic, and crisis counseling services to victims of relationship and sexual violence. Using a patient-centered approach, we attend to victims' medical needs while expertly documenting injuries and collecting forensic evidence of crimes. By providing choices of services in a non-judgmental atmosphere, with specially trained staff, we focus on re-empowering our survivors in order to begin the healing process. Together we are working to end sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and child abuse in our community.

The program is coordinated by registered nurses, who are specifically trained and certified by the Maryland Board of Nursing to care for victims of rape, sexual assault, child abuse, and intimate partner violence.

The SAFE nurses perform detailed medical-forensic examinations, complete the necessary documentation, and collect forensic evidence to be submitted to the Baltimore County Police Department Crime Lab. These services are provided in a private, secure suite which is separate from the GBMC Emergency Department after the patient has been evaluated for other injuries by an Emergency Department physician.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long after the incident can I have an exam?

You can have a forensic exam up to 5 days (120 hours) after the assault.

Where do I go for a SAFE exam?

You can report to the GBMC Emergency Department. You will be assessed by an Emergency Department provider and the SAFE team will be alerted. After you are medically cleared, you will be escorted to our private, secure suite for treatment.

Do I need to report this to the police?

You are in control of your own care. You do NOT need to report the assault to the police in order to have an exam. If you choose to involve police, the SAFE Program will assist you with this process.

What should I do before the exam?

Do not shower or change your clothes after the assault. If you have already changed, please bring **ALL** the clothes you were wearing at the time the assault with you to the hospital — this includes your underwear. Try not to use the restroom, wash your hands, eat, drink, or brush your teeth after an assault. You will have the option to shower after your exam. The SAFE Program will supply you with toiletries and comfortable clothing to wear home from the hospital if needed.

What should I expect?

A forensic nurse will perform the exam and collect evidence. For female patients, the exam is similar

to a standard gynecological exam. For male patients, a full body assessment will be completed along with a genital examination when appropriate. You will be asked questions about your medical history and about what happened to you during the assault. The SAFE nurse may also: take pictures of injuries, examine you with an alternate light source, collect your clothing for evidence, collect swabs in order to obtain evidence, and test for common “date rape” drugs. The nurse can also provide medications to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

What support services are available?

The SAFE Program will provide a Victim Advocate to every patient for crisis counseling, advocacy, and safety planning. Referrals for long-term counseling and support services for victims of sexual assault are also available.

What happens to my kit?

If you choose to report the assault to the police, the forensic nurse will secure your kit in a locked cabinet that can only be accessed by SAFE nurses and the Baltimore County Crime Lab. The evidence will then be picked up by a Crime Lab technician to be tested and analyzed if necessary. If you choose not to report to police, the kit will be stored at the Crime Lab under a confidential number for at least 20 years. The kit cannot be tested by police without your written permission.

How much does a SAFE exam cost?

A SAFE exam at GBMC is a free and confidential service.

