

# 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” | < | dizziness   |
| < | confusion   | < | drowsiness  |
| < | impaired motor skills                                 | < | impaired judgment   |
| < | reduced inhibition                                    | < | 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](http://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.*