

### **Medical Response to GBV Cases: Scenarios and Answer Key**

You are on duty at night and hear people yelling outside. You go to see what is happening. Someone rushes up to you and tells you a girl has been raped. Her family is there crying out that their daughter has been ruined. A large crowd is gathering to see what the problem is.

What is the first thing you do?

*Take girl to private area. Tell crowd to go away.*

Who do you contact?

*Contact a Caseworker immediately. If you cannot reach one, contact the head midwife.*

Who do you allow in the exam room?

*This is largely up to the survivor. She should have any friends or family members she wants. The Caseworker should be present. The survivor can authorize any other NGOs or partners she wants. However, do not allow any people who are not necessary to the exam and not requested by the survivor.*

What do you say to the survivor?

*Tell her that you understand that something very scary has happened to her. Assure her that it is not her fault, and that she will be okay. Explain what will be involved in your exam and ask if this is ok with her. Let her know that everything she says will be kept confidential.*

What do you include in the exam?

*See guidelines on clinical management of rape cases:*

*General information on survivor*

*Description of incident*

*Medical history*

*Evaluation for possible pregnancy*

*Physical exam of entire body*

*Exam of genital area*

What medications do you prescribe?

*STI prevention and/or treatment as describe in the Guidelines*

*Emergency contraceptive if rape was in prior 72 hours*

Afterwards, the parents ask you what they should do to help the girl. What do you say?

*Tell the parents that they must support the girl, and help her realize that the rape was not her fault. She is not ruined or dirty and will recover. Many women experience rape so she should not feel alone.*

*They should not tell other people about what happened, because only the girl can decide who she wants to tell about her experience. They should make sure she takes the medications you prescribed. They can help her go to other Partners for further help.*

The next day, the camp Chairman comes to see you. He says he knows that there was a rape and that he needs to know about it as chairman. He asks you the name of the survivor and how to contact her. What do you say?

*Explain that you cannot give any information about any cases without the survivor's permission. Assure him that if the survivor wishes to report her case to him, she will do so. If he insists, refer him to the Coordinator.*

The survivor goes to BCR with her case. They come to you and ask you to confirm that she was actually raped. What do you say?

*Explain that you will be happy to give them the medical certificate when they give you the "de la part de la loi" document. You cannot give any information without this document. Also explain that as a doctor you can only record what you find during the exam, you cannot make a judgment about whether a rape occurred or not.*

### **Read the story, and discuss what the doctor did well, and what he should have done differently.**

It has been a very busy day. At 5 pm Dr. Diallo is about to leave when a Caseworker comes to him and tells him there is a woman who needs his help. The woman was raped two days ago, and now she thinks she has an STI. Dr Diallo agrees to see the woman at 8 am the next day. When she comes, he asks her how the rape occurred. She explains that she was on her way to a bar to meet a friend. She was all alone and a man came up behind her. He grabbed her arms very tightly so she couldn't move. He threw her to the ground, and when she tried to escape, he hit her and raped her. Dr. Diallo asks the woman if he may do a gynecological exam. She consents. After the exam, Dr. Diallo gives the woman a prescription for STI medication. He also warns her that this sort of thing can happen when women go to bars. He tells her that he is sorry for what happened to her but she was stupid to go out at night by herself. He also reminds her that when women dress up to go out, they are tempting men and the men can't really be blamed for wanting sex with them.

### **Points of Discussion**

- = things Dr Diallo should have done differently  
+= things Dr Diallo did well

-Dr Diallo should have seen the woman immediately or found someone else to see her. Because she was raped only 2 days ago there is still time to give her emergency contraceptive, but it must be given as soon as possible. Any woman presenting within 72 hours (3 days), should be seen immediately by the doctor.

+ Dr Diallo was right to ask how the rape had occurred. This is important background information.

+ Dr Diallo was right to ask the woman's consent before doing the gynecological exam. This is an important way to help her regain control over her body.

- Dr Diallo did only a gynecological exam and not an exam of the entire body. According to the woman, she was attacked. She may still have bruises on her arms where she was grabbed or on her body where she was hit. Even if the injuries are not serious, they should be documented so that they can be used as evidence if the survivor chooses to pursue her case legally.

+ Dr Diallo prescribed treatment for STIs. This important for the survivor's health.

- Dr Diallo did not prescribe emergency contraceptive. This means the woman could become pregnant from the rape.

- Dr Diallo should not comment on what the survivor should have done differently to avoid being raped or suggest that the rape was her fault. Rape is NEVER the survivor's fault. Perpetrators ALWAYS have a choice about how they behave. Survivors need support and empathy from their

doctors, not judgment. Doctors should contribute not just to physical healing of the patient, but emotional and psychological healing as well.