



## **Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA) Information Sheet**

### **What is it?**

Rape or sexual assault facilitated by the use of drugs to incapacitate the patient.

### **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 could possibly indicate that the patient was drugged:

- If the patient remembers taking a drink but cannot recall what happened for a period of time after consuming the beverage.
- If the patient feels a lot more intoxicated than their usual response to the amount of alcohol consumed or feels intoxicated after drinking a non-alcoholic beverage.
- If the patient woke up feeling “hung over” or “fuzzy,” experiencing memory lapses and unable to account for a period of time.
- If the patient feels as though someone had sex with them but cannot recall any or all of the incident.
- If the patient wakes up in a strange or different location without knowing how they got there.
- If the patient’s clothes are absent, inside out, disheveled, or not theirs.
- If the patient has “snapshots” or “cameo memories.”

### **What do I do if I recognize the possibility of DFSA?**

Use the **Part B – Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Kit**. Notes:

- Collection should be done within 120 hours of the suspected drug ingestion.
- You must obtain separate patient consent (form is included in the Part B Kit or available on the DCJS website at <https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/evidencekit.htm>).
- You must complete the Part A Kit forensic exam before using the Part B – DFSA Kit.

### **What if our facility does not have any Part B – DFSA Kits available?**

- Use 2 gray top blood tubes and a standard sterile urine collection cup to collect samples.
  - **The patient’s first urine is critical.** If a urine specimen is collected at the start of the exam for a pregnancy test, the leftover urine should not be thrown out.
  - Do not use clean catch method for urine collection.
  - Collect 100 ml of urine, or as much as possible.
- **You must obtain separate, signed consent from the patient.** Download and print the consent form available on the DCJS website at the above web address.
- Do not include DFSA evidence in the Part A Kit box.
- Collected evidence must be stored in a refrigerated, secure area, in accordance with medical provider’s protocol. If the patient consented, release sealed evidence to law enforcement official. If not, coordinate evidence transfer to long term storage. Be sure to properly document chain of custody.