

Sexual Safety on Inpatient Wards

Key Points

1. All allegations of a sexual nature to be treated with sensitivity and with the knowledge that victims may well be distressed and in shock. All allegations to be taken seriously and victims concerns validated.
2. Not all sexual assaults can result in visible injury or physical harm, but sexual assault can cause severe emotional harm and distress to the individual.
3. The severity of allegations can range from rape and serious sexually assault to non-contact sexual assault, such as unwanted sexualised comments.
4. Any unwanted physical contact that could be experienced as sexual, is a sexual assault and should be considered as such.

For any incidents of a sexualised nature contact the NSFT Safeguarding Team



01603 421311



safeguarding@nsft.nhs.uk

If an allegation of a sexual nature is received in respect of a staff member as the perpetrator the following ADDITIONAL actions must be followed:

Allegation is in Respect of a Staff Member as the Perpetrator

See Guidance for Managers on Managing Allegations Against Staff which can be found in the Adult and Children's Safeguarding Policies (C89 & C90)

Inform NSFT Safeguarding Team

Inform Modern Matron as well as the Lead Nurse for the relevant Care Group

Support the patient to consider contacting the Police on 101

Inform the HR Business Partner for the area

Consider informing the Chief Nurse and Deputy Director for Patient Safety and Quality

Consider a Local Authority Safeguarding referral if the victim is a patient

Complete a DATIX – CODE Z

Do not discuss the allegation with the member of staff of whom the allegation relates too

Depending on the nature of the incident consideration should be given to contacting the Communications Department