



# SEXUAL ASSAULT EMERGENCY SERVICES ACT

SENATE BILL 414, SENATOR ELDER VOGEL

**REGARDLESS OF WHERE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT LIVE, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCESS EXPERT CARE. REGARDLESS OF WHERE NURSES WORK, THEY SHOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF A NETWORK OF EXPERTS WHEN DEALING WITH SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES.**

## Patient Outcomes

Research has shown that trauma-informed, person-centered care delivered by SANEs results in:

- Improved psychological well-being of sexual assault survivors
- Increased quality of medical care
- Positive impacts on prosecutorial outcomes pertaining to sexual assault survivors

**Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)** are registered nurses with specialized training in the provision of health care services to victims of sexual assault.

### THE FIRST STEP TOWARD HEALING

- With the appropriate funding, SB 414 will help to reduce inequities in access to sexual assault (SA) care and sets the pathway to a new standard of care for SA.
- Every individual seeking care after a sexual assault should receive the same care, respect, dignity and opportunity for justice.
- Senate Bill 414 will improve patient outcomes, support increased access to specialized expertise for practitioners, patients and communities where it currently does not exist, while encouraging and supporting hospitals to build and sustain SANE teams.

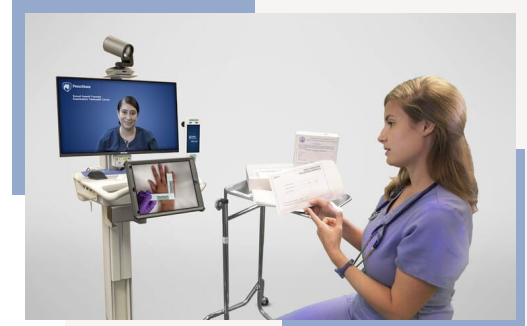
### PATIENT EXPERIENCE IMPACTS HEALING

- When hospitals do not have a trained SANE team, emergency department providers (e.g., physicians, advance practice providers) without training in sexual assault care conduct the examination OR victims are turned away to seek care at another facility.
- When SA survivors receive care at hospitals without SA expertise, they are at risk of receiving inappropriate or substandard care. Forensic evidence may be of poor quality or lost.
- Additionally, “secondary victimization,” or the additional trauma survivors of SA may experience as a result of poor care may occur.



## WORKFORCE CHALLENGES FOR HOSPITALS

- For many small or rural hospitals, the realities of maintaining a specialized workforce to serve a small number of patients a year are problematic.
- However, rural communities expect their local hospital to provide care in times of emergency, ensuring equitable access to specialty care.
- Sexual assault is an emergency. The commonwealth should develop the infrastructure to enable access to SANE services through telemedicine regardless of geography.



*Our Proprietary, Nurse-Designed Telehealth Cart and Forensic Photography Equipment.*

## SENATE BILL 414, SENATOR VOGEL

- Senate Bill 414 requires hospitals to provide sexual assault emergency services as outlined in Pennsylvania regulations (28 Pa. Code Section 117.52) and supports them in establishing a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) will make grant funding available to support a hospital SANE Program if funding is allocated within the state budget.
- Additionally, SB 414 requires DOH to provide a comprehensive list of SANE services provided by each hospital, by county. The list will be published on a publicly accessible website.
- A hospital is required to notify DOH of any changes in sexual assault emergency service capabilities within 7 days.

***I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME  
IN TO TAKE CARE OF  
YOURSELF... I BELIEVE  
YOU... WE ARE GOING  
TO CONNECT TO OUR  
EXPERT TELEHEALTH  
PARTNER SO THAT  
TOGETHER WE CAN  
PROVIDE YOU WITH THE  
VERY BEST CARE..***

*\*Formerly SB 1172 of 2021-22 session*

