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”
- Confusion
- Impaired motor skills
- Reduced inhibition
- Dizziness
- Drowsiness/ “snapping” neck
- Impaired judgment
- 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:

- The victim remembers taking a drink but cannot recall what happened for a period of time after consuming the beverage.
- 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.
- The victim woke up feeling “hung over” or “fuzzy,” experiencing memory lapses and unable to account for a period of time.
- The victim feels as though someone had sex with her/him, but cannot recall any or all of the incident.
- The victim wakes up in a strange or different location without knowing how she/he got there.
- The victim’s clothes are absent, inside out, disheveled, or not hers/his.
- 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 DFSA kit.

What if our hospital does not have any DFSA kits available?

- Use two gray top blood tubes and a standard sterile urine collection cup to obtain the samples. You still must obtain a signed consent from the victim.
- A copy of the ‘Authorization for Release of Sexual Assault Drug Screen’ are available online www.criminaljustice.ny.gov or through DCJS Violence Against Women Unit at (518) 457-9726.
- Do not include the DFSA samples in the NYS Sexual Offense Evidence Collection Kit used to do the forensic exam.