

# LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER POLICY

Subject: <b>VIP PARTICIPATION IN SEXUAL ASSAULT INVESTIGATIONS AT LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER</b>	Original Issue Date: 3/22/19	Policy # <b>179</b>
	Supersedes: 3/22/19	Effective Date: 10/21/22
Departments Consulted: Hospital Administration Regulatory Affairs Risk Management Facilities Management Human Resources Department of Pediatrics	Reviewed & Approved by: Attending Staff Association Executive Committee	Approved by: (Signature on File) Chief Medical Officer
		(Signature on File) Chief Executive Officer

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a mechanism by which the facility can conduct sensitive investigations around allegations of sexual assault in parallel with law enforcement and county equity investigators. LAC+USC is home to the Violence Intervention Program (VIP), which is a renowned program with expertise in sexual assault, which handles forensic examinations and victim interviews for law enforcement across the county. This policy establishes a mechanism by which LAC+USC can partner with VIP in conducting investigations of sexual assault allegations.

## **POLICY**

LAC+USC complies with DHS Policy 321 "Patient Safety: Sexual Abuse and/or Inappropriate Behavior Toward A Patient" and with the Los Angeles County Policy of Equity.

In addition, whenever an alleged sexual assault is reported to LAC+USC Medical Center management, the on-call member of the VIP team will be notified. This policy applies to any allegations of sexual assault affecting/involving staff, patients, or families that occur on the LAC+USC campus. VIP will conduct an investigation in parallel with law enforcement and will report its results confidentially to hospital leadership and to law enforcement.

## **PROCEDURE**

- Whenever an incident involving an alleged sexual assault occurs on our campus, in addition to complying with DHS Policy 321 and CPOE, VIP should be notified by calling (323) 409-3800
- VIP will conduct an interview (in the appropriate language), and as needed a forensic examination, performed by a trained forensic expert.
- VIP may offer medical and psychological support, as they determine appropriate.
- Any resulting forensic reports will be filed with law enforcement
- On completion of its investigation, VIP will provide a confidential report to hospital leadership.
- Hospital leadership will then administratively review and determine the necessary steps in safeguarding its patients, visitors, and staff while maintaining its operational effectiveness.

## **REVISION DATES**

October 21, 2022