

**From:** Karol, Susan (IHS/HQ)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2013 12:18 PM  
**To:** NCCMO Group  
**Subject:** FW: Action Memo\_SANE Certification  
**Importance:** High

**ACTION MEMO:** Removal of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Certification Requirements in the Indian Health Manual (*IHM*) Sexual Assault Policy, Chapter 29, Section 5

The IHS established its first formal national Sexual Assault Policy in March 2011, which is the foundation for local policies at hospitals managed by the IHS as they develop their own standard operating procedures and protocols on sexual assault medical forensic examinations. Draft revisions to the policy are under Agency review and include comments from Tribes, Urban Indian leadership, and the Department of Justice. While the review process is underway, clarification regarding certification is being provided via this action memo.

In section 3-29.5 Sexual Assault Response Training, Certification, Credentialing, and Privileging (available at [http://www.ihs.gov/ihs/index.cfm?module=dsp\\_ihm\\_pc\\_p3c29](http://www.ihs.gov/ihs/index.cfm?module=dsp_ihm_pc_p3c29)), the policy outlines SANE certification for registered nurses.

SANE certification is recognition of forensic nurses that have achieved the highest standards in his or her specialty. Once eligibility requirements set forth by the International Association of Forensic Nurses have been met, the IHS encourages registered nurses to seek SANE certification. However, SANE certification is not a requirement for practice in IHS facilities. Moreover, SANE certification for physicians and physician assistants does not exist; therefore, it is not a requirement for these providers. All health care providers should follow the training requirements outlined in the *IHM* Chapter 29, Sexual Assault Policy.

Please discuss this with your Area Chief Nurse Consultants and contact Rose Weahkee, Mose Herne, or Beverly Cotton, IHS National SANE-SART Coordinator, at [beverly.cotton@ihs.gov](mailto:beverly.cotton@ihs.gov) or by phone at 301-443-4754 if you have questions regarding training requirements or SANE certification.

Please forward this memo to Facility Chief Executive Officers, Medical Directors, and Chief Nurse Executives.

Thank you,

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