

V. Other Moral Issues

A. Referrals to other Institutions¹³

It is morally permissible, and may be legally necessary, to inform the victim of rape of all her medical options for treatment and which options for treatment are available in the Catholic Health Care Institute.

It is morally permissible to refer the victim of sexual assault to a primary care physician or to an obstetrician/gynecologist for a follow-up visit. This constitutes good medical care.

The Catholic facility may not be able to provide all the care or the quality of care that the victim needs. It is morally permissible to refer a victim of sexual assault to another facility or to a clinic for appropriate care otherwise not available. This too constitutes good medical practice.

B. Medical Staff/Allied Actions

Physicians and Allied Health Care providers employed by or having facility privileges determined by medical staff membership with the Catholic Healthcare sponsor will follow this guideline and should provide emergency contraceptive intervention consistent with this guideline.

VI. Conclusion

After appropriate testing to determine the absence of conception, it is morally permissible for Catholic Health Care Providers and Institutions to offer emergency contraception to victims of sexual assault, within certain moral limits, to prevent a conceptus from coming into existence.

In addition to the benefit of a sound guideline for treating victims of sexual assault, this *CCK Guideline* will be of benefit to those women who have been reluctant to accept a contraceptive intervention due to their concern of an abortifacient result. This *CCK Guideline* should provide sound information and peace of mind to both victims and the professionals caring for them.

¹³ See Memo, CHA, Michael Place, 04 April 2007, CHA, Attach C, 27 March 2002 and the protocols of Illinois Catholic Health Association; the Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association.