

1.14 Privacy

Objective

- Demonstrate understanding of the importance of seeking medical care as soon as possible
- Demonstrate understanding of the **harms** of lack of privacy, confidentiality and complex pathways to accessing care
- Demonstrate understanding of the importance of privacy and confidentiality

Time:

20 minutes

Required materials:

- Large open space
- Print out of character cards cut up individually for participants
- Print out of the story for the facilitator
- Ball of string/thread

Prepare:

Read the story below and adapt the story and character cards to the culture and context.

Facilitators instructions

- Ask the group to move to an open space in the room to form a circle.
- Give one person a ball of string.
- Explain that you will read a story and each time you mention a different person in the story, each person should hold onto a piece of string and pass the ball of string onto another person.
- For example: In the first line of the story the daughter tells her mother what happened. So as you read that line, the person “playing” the daughter holds onto the end of the string and passes the ball of string to a person “playing” or representing the mother. Then the mother tells the story to the wife of a local leader. At this point therefore the mother holds onto the string but passes the ball of string to the person playing the wife of the local leader. This continues until you have finished reading the story.
- By the end of the story, the group should have woven ‘a spider’s web’ or a tangled web of string between them.

Read this story to the group:

A 13 year-old girl tells her **mother** that their neighbour has raped her. The mother doesn’t know what to do, so she goes to the **wife of a local community leader**, telling her the story. The wife of the community leader tells her to take her daughter to the **local healer**. She goes to the healer. The healer examines the girl, gives her some medicine and tells the mother to go to the local NGO. The **male guard at the NGO** brings the girl and her mother to see the **female NGO staff**. The female NGO staff listens to her story and gives her advice. The female NGO staff advises the girl to go to the **police**. They go to the police and tell them their story. The police tell them that they need a medical certificate. She and her mother walk to the clinic. They meet

the **health facility male guard** and they are told to go to out-patient department registration. They tell **registration clerk** what happened. Then they go to the triage. The **triage nurse** listens to the story. The **cleaner** is cleaning at triage and so she overhears the story as well. From triage, the girl and her mother go to see the **doctor**. The doctor takes her history, asks her about her story again and does an examination. The doctor sends her to the lab for a blood test. The **laboratory staff** takes her blood, she and her mother wait for the results of her blood tests. They go back to see the **doctor** with their blood tests. The doctor then prescribes the girl some medication. They walk to the pharmacy and the **pharmacy dispenser** gives her medication. They go back to the **doctor** and get the medical certificate. Then they go to back to the **police**.

Discuss:

- What happened?
- Why is there such a thick, complicated, tangled web?
- How many people did the girl need to tell her story to? How many people heard about the story of the girl, how many people overheard or learned about the story of the survivor of sexual violence?
- What impact might this have had on the girl and her mother? What can happen now that so many people know the story of this girl?
- What could they have done differently?
- What could other members of the community have done differently? The wife of the community leader, the healer, the NGO, the police?
- What could the staff do differently?

Take away messages

Emphasize:

- The importance of survivors of sexual violence going to medical care as soon as possible
- How complicated it was for the survivor of sexual violence and her mother to get help
- How many people she needed to share her story with to receive the full package of care
- The importance of a good system, a clear entry point and care pathway in the health facility that ensures the survivor can get to a private, quiet, safe room as soon as possible and only needs to tell their story to one person and only receive medical care from one person, or as few people as possible.
- The importance of receiving care in a private room, and of health care providers protecting the survivors information by keeping all information confidential.

Character Cards

| | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Mother | Wife of local community leader | Local Healer |
|--------|--------------------------------|--------------|

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|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Male Guard (NGO) | Female NGO Staff | Police |
| Male Guard (health facility) | Registration Clerk | Triage Nurse |
| Cleaner | Doctor | Laboratory Staff |
| Pharmacy Dispenser | | |

Adapted from MSF OCA 2019 Field training curriculum for sexual violence and intimate partner violence

Answers:

| | Do | Do not |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Respect and compassion | Tell a survivor that sexual violence is not their fault and they are not to blame. | A woman went out late at night to the bar, she wore very revealing clothes and got very drunk. She was raped by a man she met at the bar. Tell her that she was irresponsible and made bad decisions. |
| | Health care providers should not judge a survivor for anything that they did before, during or after the sexual violence. | If a patient chooses not to take HIV PEP, tell them that they have made the wrong decision, and try to convince them to change their mind. |
| | A woman has sex with her neighbor in exchange for food. You do not judge her, you understand that she | Ask a survivor “Why did you go collect firewood alone?” |

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| | was forced to have sex because of poverty. | |
| | Show understanding, empathy and compassion. | Ask “why” questions. |
| | | Tell a young girl that she should not have gone to her teachers house, it is her fault for being raped by him. |
| Privacy and confidentiality | A 14 year old does not want her parents to know what happened to her because she is afraid they will harm her. You maintain her privacy. | If the high committee asks for the results of a pregnancy test, we must provide them to the high committee. |
| | A health worker can keep general anonymous statistics about the number of survivors that consulted after sexual violence, without asking the survivors for their consent. | Your organization wants to make sure more perpetrators of sexual violence are arrested to prevent more women being harmed. You share a copy of the medical certificate with the police for every survivor who comes. |
| | A husband comes to you asking the HIV status of his wife. His wife was raped by a stranger and he is concerned he will get HIV. You do not tell him his wives HIV status. | A health care provider can ask a close family member of a survivor to take care of her without informing the survivor. |
| | | A cleaner overhears a health care worker talking to a survivor about her sexual assault. The cleaner recognizes her... and decides he had better tell a few people from their neighborhood so that the community can offer her support. |
| Non-discrimination | Provide medical and psychosocial care to all survivors of sexual violence, it does not matter what ethnic group or religion they belong to. | An adult man comes and asks to see the yellow flower midwife. You tell him he cannot come, this is a place for women and girls only. |
| | A refugee without registration papers comes to you and tells you they have been raped. You say | A sex worker comes and tells you that she has been raped. You tell her “We are here to help people in |

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| | “Welcome. We provide health care to anyone regardless of ethnicity, religious or registration. Do not worry, you do not need registration and all health care is free. Come in.” | need, to help real victims of rape, we are not a service for immoral women. We cannot help you.” |
| Informed consent | A counsellor needs to ask the permission of a survivor when she/he wants to talk about her to a colleague. | A student tells a teacher that she experienced sexual abuse from her uncle. The teacher tells her that she should talk to a counselor. |
| | Explain to a parent why you cannot force a child to do a genital examination. | It is better not to tell a survivor about the possibility to report to the police if she is too upset. |
| | Empower a survivor to make decisions about her medical care. | Tell a survivor that if she does not tell you the whole story, you cannot help her. |
| | Tell a survivor that they can stop the genital examination at any time. | Tell a survivor that they must take the STI prophylaxis, they were raped and they are at risk of STIs. |
| | Encourage the survivor to ask questions throughout their medical care. | You are busy. It takes too long to explain the reasons to take ECP, just tell a survivor that it is best for her and she should take it. This will save time. |
| | A survivor can decide to only get medical treatment from a nurse, without doing a medical examination or having to tell her full story. | Giving advice or opinions, survivors are often overwhelmed and don't know what to do. |
| | | Tell a survivor of rape that it is best for her to marry her perpetrator, it is her only chance for marriage and to live without stigma, shame, dishonor and scandal. |

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