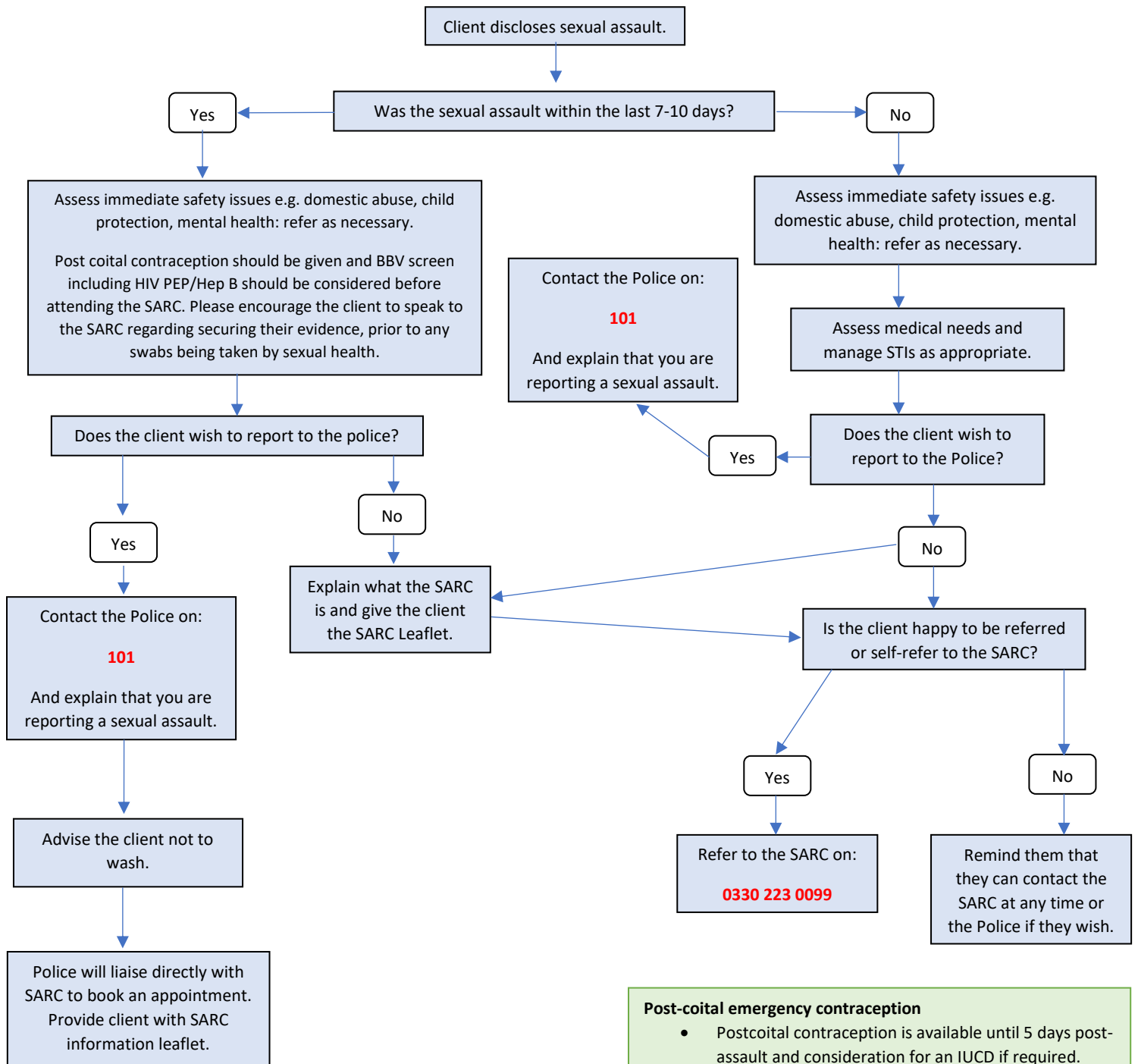


Professional Referral Pathway for Sexual Assault into a SARC: Horizon SARC

In emergency situations, if the client does not feel safe and is at risk of immediate harm, please dial 999.



For info: Forensic Window

The nature of the assault will determine the collection of certain forensic samples. The below timeframes are for guidance and should ALWAYS be discussed with a sexual offence examiner.

Vaginal Penetration – 7 days

Anal Penetration – 72 hours

Oral Penetration – 48 hours

Digital Penetration – 48 hours

Injuries can be documented when present.

Clothing, tampons, toothbrushes, etc. can all be saved to provide evidence.

Therapeutic needs ALWAYS come before forensic samples.

Contact the SARC if in doubt on 0330 223 0099.

Post-coital emergency contraception

- Postcoital contraception is available until 5 days post-assault and consideration for an IUCD if required.
- The SARC offers postcoital contraception, however, is unable to offer IUCD therefore local pathways should be considered.

Management of Sexual Health

HIV risk assessment should be conducted within 72 hours of assault and consideration given to HIV PEP. This can be undertaken by the SARC.

Further sexual health screening is undertaken at the GUM clinic including hepatitis B vaccination and ongoing monitoring.

An appointment should be offered at 2 weeks post-incident, unless a more urgent appointment is required for review.