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**Media Contact: Sara Finger
(608) 251-0139**

Wisconsin Hospitals Equipped with New Compliance Toolkit

Efforts Made to Close the Gap in Care for Rape Victims During Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Madison – This week, every Wisconsin emergency room nursing manager and medical director has been sent a toolkit to assist them in complying with Wisconsin Act 102. Also referred to as the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Act, this law requires that all Wisconsin emergency departments ensure rape victims are provided with the opportunity to prevent pregnancy from their attacker by providing information about and access to emergency contraception (EC) at their facilities.

Earlier this month, the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) shared the highlight results of a recent follow-up [study](#) of the care provided to rape victims in Wisconsin emergency rooms. The new report demonstrated that while significant progress has been made since the law was enacted in 2008, many Wisconsin hospitals are still not in compliance with the law.

The study showed that some of the barriers to compliance of the law included "lack of available resources" and "unfamiliarity with the law". The [2010 CCRV Hospital & Provider Toolkit](#) was created in response to the study findings as an important resource for hospitals when providing compassionate care to all sexual assault victims who present in their emergency rooms.

The toolkit includes a copy of the CCRV Law, directories of various community resources, information about EC, and sample protocols and informational forms from hospitals already compliant with the law.

It is estimated that over 300,000 women are sexually assaulted in the United States every year and an estimated 25,000 of those women will become pregnant as a result. Over 88 percent of these pregnancies could be prevented through the use of EC.

"In the aftermath of rape, victims have the right to regain control over their lives and make fully-informed decisions," said WAWH Director, Sara Finger. "The medical community has a responsibility to provide victims with the standard of care they need and deserve. We hope our toolkit helps hospitals provide comprehensive and compassionate care to rape victims to ensure full compliance with the law."

To view a copy of the 2010 Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Hospital & Provider Toolkit and for more information about CCRV, visit the WAWH website: www.supportwomenshealth.org.

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*The mission of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (WAWH) is to advance comprehensive women's health in Wisconsin by engaging, educating, empowering and mobilizing individuals and organizations.
To learn more about WAWH, visit our website: www.supportwomenshealth.org*