

Green: Hosps Treating Rape

By Joe Stevens

STAFF WRITER

All of the city's public hospitals have improved to a standard of adequate or better in treating rape victims over the past two years, according to a report released yesterday by Public Advocate Mark Green.

The 11 Health and Hospitals Corp. facilities have added rape crisis staff and increased the availability of social workers and trained volunteers who are on call 24 hours a day.

In addition, examination rooms have been refurbished in some hospitals and added to others. The new examination rooms are better able to ensure a victim's privacy after a rape.

Hospital administrators, as well as Green, said they are pleased to see the improvements. Citywide, the acceptability rate jumped from 36 percent in 1994 to 100 percent today.

Elmhurst and Queens Hospital Centers have started to train volunteers for rape crisis counseling programs. Elmhurst has social worker coverage in its emergency room, according to the report.

Green's study began in 1994 after an art teacher was raped and neglected when she entered Woodhull Medical Center. Woodhull, Coney Island and Kings County Hospitals have shown the greatest improvement, the report says.

Newsday -
9/27/96