

# Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit

Patient presents to the clinic/facility/hospital after a sexual assault

Is it within the evidence collection time frame determined by clinic/facility/hospital or state?\*

Yes

No

Informed consent and the patients' choice to participate in each aspect of evidence collection will be a guide throughout the exam.

\*Time frames for evidence collection should be determined by your state/territory/national protocol.

A professional who has been specifically trained to collect evidence related to a sexual assault should perform the medical forensic exam.

A history of events should be obtained to guide the evidence collection along with medical screening and evaluation.

A Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit is utilized to collect evidence from a patient who has experienced a sexual assault. This kit may contain:

- Consent and incident report forms
- Cotton swabs
- Envelopes/box to place dried swabs
- Paper bags to collect clothing and other items

Things that might be collected for evidence:

- Debris as trace evidence
- Foreign stains such as saliva
- Touch DNA such as in the event of a strangulation
- Urine
- Blood
- Clothing
- Tampons

Evidence should be stored or released using proper chain of custody, following policies, procedures or statutes.

Proceed with medical forensic evaluation and treatment if the patient is outside of window of evidence collection. (See ISAAC Medical Forensic Exam fact sheet)

## Considerations for evidence:

- Evidence tracking system for sexual assault kits
- Follow-up for CODIS-hits in a timely manner
- Victim notification protocol
- Time frame for retention of sexual assault kits
- Evidence collection kits may be variable depending on individual/local/state/national recommendations and needs.

## Cultural considerations

- Provide access to tribal coalitions and advocacy
- Acknowledge intergenerational trauma
- Beliefs and values should be upheld and honored to the best of the clinicians' ability.

Supplies/equipment that may be utilized for the medical forensic exam:

- Camera
- Speculum
- Toluidine blue dye
- Colposcope
- Anoscope
- Alternate light source

Payment resources for Sexual Assault Evidence Collection kits can be found in state protocols:  
[www.safeta.org/page/MFEPayment](http://www.safeta.org/page/MFEPayment)

Reporting options for each state can be found under exam payment resources: [www.safeta.org/page/MFEPayment](http://www.safeta.org/page/MFEPayment)



[supportingourcircle.org](http://supportingourcircle.org)

## References:

- U.S. Department of Justice. (2017). National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach. Retrieved from <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250384.pdf>



This document was developed through the support of Grant No. 2019-SA-AX-K001 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.