

Standards for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Training Programs

Programs that can provide SAFE training:

- Accredited college or university
- School of Nursing or Medicine
- Hospital continuing education program
- Other institutions able to meet DOH training standards.

Any training program must be able to provide continuing education credits, course credits or contact hours.

Training should be conducted by:

- Instructors who have demonstrated training experience and expertise in the field of forensic science and sexual assault;
- At least one faculty member must be an active DOH certified sexual assault forensic examiner.

Training Standards

Training should be conducted that is consistent with:

- New York State Department of Health *Protocol for the Acute Care of the Adult Patient Reporting Sexual Assault*;
- New York State Department of Health Standards for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (Attachment VII);
- New York State Department of Health Standards for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Programs (Attachment III);
- New York State laws and regulations promulgated in relation to the treatment of sexual assault;
- Any standards developed by the International Association of Forensic Nurses and other such standards developed nationally, as appropriate; and
- Such other requirements as the Department of Health determines are necessary to ensure that certified SAFE examiners have been trained in a manner which is consistent with applicable laws, rules, regulation, protocols, current standards of care, and the goals of the SAFE program set forth in the program standards and requirements for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Programs (see Attachment III).

Other training requirements:

Programs must:

- Have a formalized, 40 hour curriculum, inclusive of a clinical component.
- The curriculum, course schedule and teaching strategies shall be submitted to the Department for prior approval. Such materials shall be designed to ensure that individuals completing the course have the training and experience necessary to provide services in a manner which is consistent with all applicable laws, rules,

regulations, protocols, current standards of care, and goals of the SAFE program set forth in the program standards and requirements for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Programs (see Attachment III) and at a minimum shall include:

- a. Comprehensive training in the dynamics of sexual assault, types of sexual assaults, myths and facts about sexual assault, post traumatic stress and rape trauma syndrome, reactions of survivors and significant others, and the importance of a victim-centered, cooperative, interdisciplinary approach in the treatment of sexual assault survivors;
 - b. The roles and responsibilities of the sexual assault forensic examiner;
 - c. Identifying the components of crisis intervention and supportive techniques to be used with sexual assault survivors;
 - d. Cultural/community considerations;
 - e. Providing services to individuals with disabilities;
 - f. Injury detection and documentation;
 - g. Identifying the elements of physical assessment and evaluation of the patient reporting sexual assault;
 - h. The collection and handling of forensic evidence;
 - i. Documentation procedures;
 - j. Testing for and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia);
 - k. Testing for and treatment of blood-borne diseases (e.g., HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C);
 - l. Pregnancy risk assessment, pregnancy testing, and provision of emergency contraception;
 - m. Use of specialized equipment (colposcope, camera);
 - n. Observing and practicing the clinical skills in completing the exam;
 - o. Judicial processes and providing courtroom testimony;
 - p. Adolescents: parental rights/patient rights;
 - q. Confidentiality and consent;
 - r. Relevant laws, regulations and NYS standards;
 - s. Drug facilitated sexual assault;
 - t. Interviewing skills;
 - u. Ethical issues;
 - v. Long term effects of sexual assault; and,
 - w. Follow-up, referral.
- The curriculum and associated materials must be updated as needed to reflect new medical and forensic standards for the treatment of victims of sexual assault;
 - Provide sufficient oversight of clinical preceptorship and training experiences for students under qualified supervision;

Training programs must:

- Keep an accurate record of attendance for each segment of the course;
- Have regular course evaluation and pre- and post-testing of recipients;
- Issue documentation of completion to each participant who has successfully completed all key didactic and clinical competencies required for certified sexual assault forensic examiners;
- Report to the Department of Health the successful completion of demonstrated key

- didactic and clinical competencies for each participant and,
- Collect data as specified by the Department of Health regarding the number of individuals trained, as well as other required data, for the submission to the Department, as needed.

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