



Sexual Offences: POST-PUBERTAL Complainants

The medico-legal guidelines and recommendations published by the Faculty are for general information only. Appropriate specific advice should be sought from your medical defence organisation or professional association. The Faculty has one or more senior representatives of the MDOs on its Board, but for the avoidance of doubt, endorsement of the medico-legal guidelines or recommendations published by the Faculty has not been sought from any of the medical defence organisations.

This flow chart must only be used after consideration of the following:

The flowchart is for the use of forensic physicians and paediatricians.

It is intended to help the decision making process when deciding if a forensic examination is warranted between the hours of midnight and 7am, or can wait and be done by the day team.

It is intended that it is only a guide. Decisions must be made on a case-by-case basis as to whether an earlier examination is required, with consideration given to external factors as necessary.

Wherever there is doubt, a discussion should take place between the referring party (usually the investigating officer), the forensic physician on call and/or paediatrician, as appropriate.

In all cases consideration must be given to:

1. General welfare of the young person.
2. Medical needs including;
 - a. Injuries
 - b. Emergency contraception
 - c. Post-exposure prophylaxis
 - d. Advice on STI screening
3. Safeguarding issues including child protection issues.
4. Early evidence kits.

Have these issues been taken into consideration?

Yes

Has there been oral, vaginal or anal – penile or digital penetration or ejaculation on the body surface?

No

Wait until morning

Yes

Within the last 12 hours?

No

Reconsider these factors

Yes

Is the complainant intoxicated?

Yes

Wait until not intoxicated

No

Examine out of hours