

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

Forensic Sampling: HCPs working in Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM) Tuesday 25 February 2020

Forensic Sampling: HCPs working in General Forensic Medicine (GFM) Tuesday 03 March 2020

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives of the two webinars are the same that you will be able to:

- explain the advances in forensic science that support the current DNA anticontamination guidance and manage the preparation of facilities prior to taking samples;
- demonstrate the appropriate techniques for taking and correctly labelling forensic samples;
- understand the importance of providing the necessary information to the forensic scientists.

Attending the webinar(s) does not deem you to be competent to obtain forensic samples or undertake a forensic medical examination. Such competency will follow summative assessment(s), after appropriate theoretical training and supervised clinical practice, supported by periodic formative assessments by your clinical/educational supervisor.

Please note there is some overlap between the two webinars.

Preparation and pre-reading

Anatomy

- the mouth
- the female external and internal genitalia
- the male external genitalia
- the anal canal and rectum

FFLM Publications (www.fflm.ac.uk)

Recommendations for the collection of samples from suspects and complainants, (January 2020).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Recommendations-for-the-collection-of-forensic-specimens-from-complainants-and-suspects-FSSC-Jan-2020.pdf>

Recommendations for the collection of samples from suspects and complainants – the evidence, (January 2020).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Recommendations-for-the-collection-of-forensic-specimens-from-complainants-and-suspects-the-evidence-FSSC-Jan-2020.pdf>

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FFLM Forensic Science Subcommittee (FSSC) newsletter, (January 2020).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/FSSC-Newsletter-Dr-M-Stark-January-2020.pdf>

Please note, other editions are in the FFLM publications area:

<https://fflm.ac.uk/resources/publications/>

FFLM Forensic Medical Examination (FME) Form, (January 2020).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Forensic-Medical-Examination-Form-FFLM-Jan-2020.pdf>

Assessments (alcohol and drugs) under the RTA, (June 2019).

https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Section4_RTAform_Jun19.pdf

Position Statement: on the management of requests by police for intimate samples for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) from detainees in police custody, (May 2019).

https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/PositionStatement_STItests_Custody_May19.pdf

Guide to establishing urgency of sexual offence examination, (May 2019).

- Flow chart for pre-pubertal complainant.

https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Pre-pubertalComplainants_May19.pdf

- Flow chart for post-pubertal complainant.

https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Post-pubertalComplainants_May19.pdf

Position Statement: on video recording assessments in police custody (April 2019).

https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/PositionStatement_VideoInCustody_Apr19.pdf

Recommendations: Consent from Children and Young people in police custody in England and Wales for medical examination, (August 2018 and January 2019).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Consent-from-children-and-young-people-in-police-custody-England-Wales-FFLM-RCPCH-Jan19.pdf>

Recommended equipment for obtaining forensic samples from suspects and complainants, (January 2019).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Recommended-equipment-for-obtaining-forensic-samples-from-complainants-and-suspects-Jan-2019.pdf>

Recommendations: Labelling Forensic Samples (January 2019)

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Labelling-Forensic-Samples-Jan-2019.pdf>

Care of suspects of sexual assault in police custody, (August 2018).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Care-of-Suspects-of-Sexual-Assault-in-Police-Custody-FFLM-Aug-2018.pdf>

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Drug-driving competencies, (February 2018).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Drug-Driving-Competencies-Dr-Will-Anderson-Feb-2018.pdf>

Recommendations for the examination of female suspects of sexual assault, (January 2018).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Recommendations-for-the-examination-of-female-suspects-of-sexual-assault-Dr-M-Stark-Jan-2018.pdf>

Taking blood from incapacitated drivers, (September 2017).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Taking-Blood-Specimens-from-Incapacitated-Drivers-September-2017.pdf>

Blood samples in hospital for unconscious/incapacitated drivers, (September 2017).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Blood-Samples-in-Hospital-for-Unconscious-Patients-September-2017.pdf>

Recommendations for collecting hair samples for toxicology, (June 2017).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Collecting-Hair-Samples-for-Toxicology-Fiona-Perry-June-2017.pdf>

Recommendations for collecting nail clippings for toxicology, (June 2017).

<https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Collecting-Nail-clippings-for-Toxicology-Fiona-Perry-June-2017.pdf>

SARC storage of forensic samples and the Human Tissue Act: frequently asked questions, (November 2016). <https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/SARC-Storage-of-Forensic-Samples-and-the-Human-Tissue-Act-FAQs-Dr-C-White-November-2016.pdf>

Please note this document is being reviewed and updated

Other documents and publications

The Forensic Science Regulator's (FSR's) Guidance.

DNA anti-contamination: forensic medical examination in sexual assault referral centres and custodial facilities, (2016).

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/540116/207_FSR_anti-contam_SARC_Custody_Issue1.pdf

Forensic Science Regulator's Anonymous Reporting Line, powered by the CrimeStoppers charity <https://forms.theiline.co.uk/forensicregulator>

The Royal Society and The Royal Society of Edinburgh

Forensic DNA analysis: A Primer for Courts, (November 2017)

<https://royalsociety.org/~media/about-us/programmes/science-and-law/royal-society-forensic-dna-analysis-primer-for-courts.pdf>

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Nittis M. Sexual Assault Examination. In *Clinical Forensic Medicine – A Physician’s Guide*.
Ed. Stark MM. Springer Nature Switzerland 2020

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Application to the FFLM examinations

Extracts from the syllabus for

Membership (MFFLM) Part 2 SOM & GFM Forensic Science and Toxicology

Forensic science is making an increasing contribution to clinical forensic medicine. You should be familiar with methods of forensic sampling, analysis and interpretation of different forensic samples including hair, blood etc. In addition, you should understand the principles behind the use of DNA and its limitations.

Examples of questions might include:

- the types of samples taken in an alleged [sexual assault] from a complainant and/or suspect;
- persistence data.

Licentiate (LFFLM) SOM

Examples of questions might include:

- Describe the use of early evidence kits.
- Discuss accurately the logistics for the forensic medical examination, including the nature of the assault, assailant (type/number involved), persistence of evidence, suitability of premises for examination and preservation of evidence.
- Discuss current persistence data and recovery methods for trace evidence.
- Demonstrate the collection of forensic samples, including how to ensure minimal cross contamination and appropriate labelling and packaging of forensic with the regard to the chain of evidence and admissibility of evidence.
- Explain the forensic requirements for collection, storage and use of products of conception as evidence following termination of pregnancy.

Licentiate (LFFLM) GFM

Examples of questions might include:

- Discuss accurately the logistics for the forensic medical examination, including the nature of the assault, assailant (type/number involved), persistence of evidence, suitability of premises for examination and preservation of evidence.
- Discuss current persistence data and recovery methods for trace evidence.
- Demonstrate the collection of forensic samples, including how to ensure minimal cross contamination and appropriate labelling and packaging of forensic samples with the regard to the chain of evidence and admissibility of evidence.

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Presenters

Dr Emmeline Brew-Graves



Dr Emmeline Brew-Graves is a Specialty Doctor & Sexual Offences Examiner with a GP background who has worked in Sexual Offences initially in 1992 to 1996 for the Metropolitan Police and has been with the Havens (Sexual Assault Referral Centre for London) since 2007.

She worked as the Clinical Director for the Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Bristol from 2016 until 2019. She teaches on courses for professionals run by the Havens and trains SOEs and FNEs. She has undertaken research, as well as contributed chapters to forensic medical publications.

Dr Bernadette Butler



Bernadette Butler, ('Dr B') graduated from St Thomas' Hospital Medical School, sometime in the last century, when there were as many individual medical schools in London as the rest of the UK. Initially, her career path was in Obstetrics & Gynaecology; her forensic medical career began in 2000, at the Haven Camberwell, which was the pilot sexual assault service for South London, where she was one of the first sessional doctors. Her education in Clinical Forensic and Legal Medicine was supported by the London DMJ Study Club and then the University of Ulster's post-graduate Diploma in Forensic & Legal Medicine.

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She job-shared the senior doctor role at the Haven Camberwell until January 2015 and is now the Havens' Clinical Education & Training Lead and continues her clinical role as a forensic physician, on the on-call rota.

She has a post-graduate award in Medical Education and is an examiner for the FFLM. She was the Academic Dean 2016-2019. She was the Clinical Director of Hope House, the Gloucestershire SARC from July 2017 - July 2019.

Dr Sandy Fielding



Dr Fielding has been working in Clinical Forensic Medicine (both SARC and Custody) since 2003 and is a Fellow of the FFLM, a FFLM Examiner and a FFLM Board Member. She currently works in both Custody and SARCs.

She races a Modern Classic yacht and is a Committee member of the British Classic Yacht Club.

Dr Alex Gorton



Alex Gorton is Assistant Registrar to the FFLM, conference secretary and a facilitator for the Faculty course in General Forensic Medicine. He has been a forensic physician for 10 years both as a clinical lead and as medical director for a private provider. He has co-authored a number of recent practice guidelines as well as contributing to the most recent edition of the

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'Blue Guidelines'. In addition to his work in general forensic medicine he maintains his clinical skills working as a part time middle grade in emergency medicine. He regularly provides training sessions to ED clinicians on injury documentation and statement writing skills.

Dr Helena Thornton



I qualified in Birmingham, and moved to Manchester in 1980. I worked as a GP until 2017, and started working at St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre in 1995.

I joined the Faculty at its inception and was made a Fellow in 2008. I have been an examiner since 2010, and was the Chief Examiner from 2013 to 2018.

I am currently the President of the Clinical, Forensic and Legal Medicine Section of the Royal Society of Medicine.

I live in Saddleworth with my husband Christopher and three very spoilt cats.