



# Recommendations for Introductory Training Courses in Sexual Offence Medicine (SOM)

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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.

The Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (FFLM) *Quality Standards* recommend that all Health Care Professionals must undergo an initial accredited training course before commencing unsupervised clinical work.

## Applying for FFLM CPD course approval

Details of how to apply for approval can be found via the link: [www.fflm.ac.uk/cpd-accreditation](http://www.fflm.ac.uk/cpd-accreditation)

The criteria for approval are:

1. The primary purpose of the event must be education. Any commercial sponsorship or interests of the programme planner, presenters or facilitators must be declared on the application form and must not influence the structure or content of the event.
2. The learning objectives must be relevant to the core competencies expected of the members of the Faculty, or those practising in fields represented by the Faculty, and must fit the needs of the target audience.
3. The learning objectives must be specifically defined.
4. The teaching methods used will achieve the stated learning objectives.
5. Sufficient information (in the form of a Curriculum Vitae or equivalent) has been provided to demonstrate that the presenters or facilitators have the expertise to deliver the learning objectives using the methods chosen.
6. There must be a procedure in place for evaluation of the event.
7. The evaluation record for previous events organised by the same provider is satisfactory, or reasons for unsatisfactory ratings have been addressed.
8. Certificates of attendance must be issued, in addition the provider agrees to supply to the participant or the Faculty, on request, confirmation of participation any time up to two years after the event has taken place.

## Pre-reading

It is recommended course participants undertake some form of pre-reading from the suggested list:

1. Dalton M  
Forensic Gynaecology. Advanced Skill Series  
Cambridge University Press 2015  
ISBN 978-1-107-06429-4
2. Stark MM. Ed  
Clinical Forensic Medicine – A Physician's Guide.  
4<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Elsevier 2020  
ISBN 3030294617



## Introductory Training Course syllabus

The course must cover the following modules but not necessarily in the following order. Each module is a total of 6 hours.

### Module 1

Introduction to the different models of care  
Police organisation  
Consent, confidentiality, ethics (covering both adults and children)  
Record keeping

### Module 2

Law relating to sexual offences  
Role of the crisis worker and ISVA  
Safeguarding

### Module 3

Substance misuse and co-morbidity  
Assessment of mental health, role of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs)  
Forensic science and sampling

### Module 4

Forensic Medical Examination including ano-genital examination  
Documentation and interpretation of injuries including ano-genital injuries  
Non-fatal strangulation  
Use of colposcope  
Post assault care:

- Emergency contraception
- Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)
- Referral to Genitourinary Medicine (GUM)
- Psychological support

### Module 5

Report writing  
The Court system  
Courtroom skills assessment  
Course debrief and consideration of future training

It must be stressed that completion of the above course does not mean that the individual is competent to work unsupervised and further training, supervision and mentoring, in accordance with the FFLM Quality Standards documents, will be required.