

# SOM SAQ

## COVID 19 Complainant Management

Name of question writer	Demonstration SOM SAQ
Date question is finished	
Main topic areas covered	COVID 19 complainant management
Total number of available marks	22
Scenario theme	
Main body of question (with model answer)	Self -swabbing for forensic samples during Covid 19
Stretch element (to challenge and help identify the best candidates), if any	

### QUESTION & MODEL ANSWERS:

You are the Forensic Practitioner on duty in a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). There is an outbreak of Covid 19 in your area and the Trust has insisted that you follow the precautions used in the 2020 outbreak. You receive a phone call from PC Jones. He is with Amy, who has alleged rape by an acquaintance earlier that day. He requests a forensic medical examination for her.

1. In deciding how best to proceed give six specific questions you might ask to assess the risks posed by Amy with respect to Covid-19?

Has Amy or anyone else that is accompanying her [1], or any of their household members/close contacts [1] had:

A new, continuous cough [1]

A high temperature [1]

A loss or change of taste or smell [1]

Has she or anyone accompanying her been shielding or has underlying conditions which makes her/them extremely vulnerable? [1]

Has she or anyone in her close contacts, or anyone coming had a Covid test and what was the result and when was that? [1]

If Amy is symptomatic or positive, how unwell is she? [1]

(Answers need to be specific and detailed, as above to score a full mark)

**(6 marks)**

(Notes: A new continuous cough includes coughing for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. Temperature does not need to be checked. Person feels hot to touch on their chest or back)

2. You decide that Amy can attend the SARC for an examination. Give six further measures you might take to further minimise COVID-19 risks with respect to the forensic medical examination.

Police history (1 mark) and complainant history [1] should be completed on the phone to reduce overall face-to-face time.

The minimum possible number of people should attend the examination [1]

Police and client should travel separately if possible [1]

Everyone attending the appointment should wear face coverings if possible [1]

Everyone attending the appointment should wash and gel their hands frequently [1]

Provide advice about reducing the risks associated with taking EEK samples [1]

**(6 marks)**

3. Amy arrives for examination. Which samples will you consider for toxicology? Give reasons for your answer with reference to samples that may have already been taken and with reference to timescales.

2 urine samples [1] because she is still within 24 hours of the incident [1]

If the police have already taken an early evidence kit (EEK) urine take 1 sample only [1]

If the police have taken 2 EEK urines approximately an hour apart there is no need to take a further one [1]

A blood sample [1] as she is within the recommended 72-hour

**(5 marks)**

4. Give four factors that might impact your decisions around whether to conduct toxicological sampling, with specific reference to the risks posed by COVID-19?

Coronavirus can be found in blood and urine and these fluids are potentially infectious [1]

Blood sampling necessitates being very close to the patient, may take some time and therefore carries additional risks [1]

Urine sampling may also expose others, such as crisis workers to these risks [1]

One might check how strongly indicated these samples were, a history of possible drug use or excess alcohol consumption peri-assault and/or drug facilitation would indicate the need for samples to be taken. [1]

If there was not a strong indication one might consider limiting or omitting the samples [1]

**(4 marks)**

5. After PC Jones and Amy leave the police refer you another complainant, Jack, who alleges anal rape by an acquaintance last night. He is unwell with symptoms suggestive of Covid-19. You decide to offer him remote anal self-sampling and prepare a self-sampling pack for him. According to current national guidance detail six items this should contain as a minimum.

FFLM (or equivalent) self-swab patient leaflet [1]

One labelled anal swab sample [1]

A labelled tamper evident bag for the anorectal sample [1] with "COVID risk" marked on the bag

Disposable gloves for Jack to wear when taking his sample [1]

Forensic permanent marker pen [1]

Completed FME forms [1]

**(6 marks)**

(Notes: Candidate would lose marks if suggested using several swabs and sampling different anorectal sites- Only ONE self-swab for anorectal area is recommended.

As self-swabbing is not ideal in terms of evidence gathering, this should only be done if it is considered necessary. In these circumstances the advice from the forensic scientists is to seize wherever possible additional sources of evidence such as underwear, sanitary wear, bedding etc.)