

SARC Network News

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Issue #11

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SARC Examination Strategy Collaborative Learning Exercise (CLE)

Phase 1 of this pilot is complete with 5 SARCs having participated.

Phase 1 proved to be a success and we are now ready to roll out the CLE to all SARCs in the UK in February 2025.



You are invited to participate in the SARC Examination Strategy Collaborative Learning Exercise

The purpose of this CLE is to test the SARC strategy process to ensure it is fit for purpose and demonstrate FHP competence. This also provides an opportunity to identify best practice and potentially inform and update guidelines.

This CLE has been developed by the FCN SARC Specialist Board and is in line with FFLM guidance, FSR Code and ISO 15189. We aim to include all SARCs across the UK in this exercise.

[Sign up here](#)
Before 27th January 2025

We need the email address of your SARCs SPOC whom we will send the CLE Case & Strategy Answer form to on **10th February 2025**, this form includes 4 different case

scenarios (2 adult, 1 adolescent and 1 paediatric case) this will need to be sent by your SPOC to the 2-3 trained FHPs to complete (ideally FHPs with varying levels of experience and training). The FHP will need to provide details of their examination strategy they would take based on the case details provided, The FHPs only need to complete the scenarios for the cases that would be seen in your SARC.

The SPOC will collate the completed CLE Case & Strategy Answer form and return them (anonymised) to the FCN by **10th March 2025**.

This CLE will test the concept for the development of a strategy proficiency test.

All SARCs will receive an individual report of their results along with an anonymised national overview report.



This exercise forms just one part of the FHP ongoing competency assessment, SARCs should have a framework in place defining the training requirements for their staff, including the criteria for acceptable performance. The training framework should include a variety of training approaches such as:

- Method witness
- Mocked up scenarios
- Review of live case work

If you would like any further information on this or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us:

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You are invited to:

SARC FSR Code Compliance – The Basics Webinar

When: 21st January at 12:30-13:30

This is an Association of Forensic Nurses and Paramedics (UKAFN) event presented by FCN Quality Specialist Michelle Gaskell.

[Sign up here](#)

This webinar will provide an overview of the ISO 15189 and FSR Code requirements.



Last chance to feedback on the SARC Declaration Guidance shared in FCN SARC Network news issue #10

The deadline for feedback on the proposed SARC declaration guidance published in last months SARC Network News is 10th January 2025.

The FSR will be publishing a SARC FSR Compliance Survey to all SARCs in early 2025 to gather information on the SARCs progress towards meeting compliance to the FSR Code

SARC Verification Package: Available Now from FINDS:

Forensic Information Database services (FINDS) have designed a package based on the exercises carried out by FCN to assist SARCs with their verification; for SARCs to demonstrate their intimate and non-intimate swabbing processes are fit for purpose. This will support SARCs in meeting compliance to the FSR Code and achieving ISO 15189:2022 accreditation.

This verification package includes:

1) A vinyl surface which has 4 distinct areas marked out, one which is a control and the other 3 are dosed with different body fluids:

semen, saliva and blood.

The FCN have previously conducted a study which demonstrated reproducibility of body fluid recovery from vinyl surfaces when compared to human skin.

2) A gynecological anatomical dummy which has been dosed with body fluids (semen and saliva) in 7 different areas.

These items can be delivered to SARCs for an FHP to recover samples as per their SARC forensic medical examination procedure. The gynecological anatomical dummy and samples recovered are then returned to FINDS.

FINDS will have these samples analysed for DNA and compared to the donors DNA to determine whether the samples have been correctly recovered without contamination.

The cost for this verification package is £2331.34. Please contact Rumana.Hamid1@homeoffice.gov.uk to order this SARC Verification Package.

