



Early Evidence Kit (EEK) – top tips and rationale

Jan 2025 Review date Jan 2026 – check www.fflm.ac.uk for latest update

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.

See also *Collecting early evidence* and *Early Evidence Kit – consent and sample form*

- **Complete all samples which are within forensic timescales.**
To not do so introduces the risk of bias into the investigation.
- **Double gloves must be worn prior to opening the kit and the top layer of gloves must be changed before opening each set of modules/sampling another site. There is no requirement to exhibit gloves.**
This reduces the risk of cross contamination.
- **Work through the samples in the order set out on the new EEK form. Ensure the samples are labelled in the sequence the samples are taken A & B.**
This will help achieve best evidence.
- **Only the kit LOT number and expiry date needs to be recorded. There is no need to record the details for each of the modules.**
- **A facemask should be worn throughout the sampling process.**
This reduces the risk of cross contamination.
- **Water vials – discard the first water droplet, then moisten swabs with 2-4 droplets of water but do not allow the vial to make direct contact with the swab tip.**
This reduces the contamination risk.
- **Swabs should be held by the stopper and not the shaft of the swab. Swabs should be ‘rolled’ over the sample area using moderate pressure.**
We want to minimise the donor’s biological matter collected, targeting any biological matter sat on the surface.
- **Skin swabs should not be taken from intimate areas as this may impact on the recovery of material during any subsequent medical examination.**
If in doubt contact your local SARC for advice regarding areas suitable for sampling.
- **Complete hand and fingernail sampling in sexual offences stranger 1 & 2 cases. Swabs from the ‘standard’ swab module should be used.**
If <48 hours.
- **Consider sampling fingers individually if visibly stained and/or case circumstances indicate specific contact (e.g. finger bitten or complainant scratched offender).**
If <48 hours.
- **Consider collecting clothing and sanitary wear if available/appropriate.**
- **If the complainant is chewing/has chewed gum following an oral allegation this should also be collected; collect tooth brush, if relevant.**
- **Ensure samples are stored as per the Recommendations document and are transported in a cool box.**