

# FORENSIC NURSING

DR VINITA GUPTA  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
& SENIOR CONSULTANT  
OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY  
DR BSAMCH'ROHINI ,DELHI

# OBJECTIVES

- WHAT EVIDENCE TO COLLECT
- HOW TO COLLECT
- HOW TO PRESERVE THE EVIDENCE
- DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURE
- SEALING OF EVIDENCE
- CHAIN OF CUSTODY
- HANDING OVER
- FIRST AID ,COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

# ROLE OF NURSES

- Nurses are an integral part of health care system
- Different nurses focus on different clinical practice areas
- Postpartum unit
- Paediatric nurse
- Critical care unit nurse
- Forensic nurse

# WHAT IS FORENSIC NURSING

- Evaluating ,diagnosing,treating and counselling the victims of sexual assault or abuse
- **SANE -SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER**
- **A special title given by IAFN**

- *NURSES MUST BE KNOWLEDGABLE ABOUT IDENTIFYING REPORTING AND DOCUMENTING SUSPECTED ABUSE*

# WHO TO EXAMINE

- Any RMP working in govt or private institution recognised by state or center may conduct the examination
- Not necessarily a gynecologist
- Training of all is must
- Although a female examiner is preferred for a female adult patient but in the absence a male can conduct examination in the presence of a female staff
- A female examiner is mandatory for all GIRLS POCSO cases
- In case of transgender choice of examining doctors lies on survivor
- In case of minors or mentally disabled survivor , person with whomsoever she is comfortable may be allowed to be present in examining room
- *A police personnel is never allowed inside counselling room or examining room at the time of procedure*

**WHERE TO EXAMINE**

**ONE STOP CENTRE**



# Safe kit

- Envelopes labelled as steps 1-16 in no.
- Envelopes contain slides, swabs, tubes, comb, nail cutter, scrappers, etc required for sample collection
- Paper sheet for debris collection
- Syringes, needles, gloves
- Bags
- Documentation forms
- Protocol /proformae booklet

## OTHER ITEMS

- Woods lamp
- Vaginal speculums
- Drying rack
- Microscope & camera
- Toulidine blue dye
- UPT kit
- LAC for sealing
- Toilet items ,gown and clean clothing
- Vials for diagnostic purpose
- medications

**PROTOCOLS AND PROFORMAE FOR MEDICO-  
LEGAL EXAMINATION OF SURVIVORS OF  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
&  
EVIDENCE COLLECTION KIT**

**Prepared by NICFS\* based on guidelines issued by  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in 2014**

\*Lok Nigrah Jai Prakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science,  
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Sector-3, Kirti, Delhi-110065

# consent

- A victim > 12 years age can give VALID self consent for medical examination
- Consent from parents/guardian is mandatory for all victims < 12years age
- WHENEVER GUARDIANS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, THEN INFORMED CONSENT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM A PANEL OF SENIOR DOCTORS IN ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS IN HOSPITAL WHO WILL ACT IN BEST INTEREST OF CHILD
- IN CASE OF SUSPECTED INCEST, CWC TO BE INFORMED WHO HAVE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING CARE AND PROTECTION TO CHILDREN
- Requisition of police is not mandatory for examination or sample collection
- Neither police nor court directive can force examination
- Lodging an FIR is never mandatory , always optional
- Consent for examination must be signed by examining doctor , survivor or Parents ,and a witness ( major disinterested person )

I also understand that I am free to revoke all or any part of this consent at any time during the examination.

The content of above is explained to me in ..... language which I understand and hence I sign.

.....

.....

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(Name & Signature of Witness)

(Name & Signature of Survivor)

.....

.....

(Date, Place and Time)

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.....

(Name & Signature of Guardian or Relative of the Survivor when s/he is unable give her consent due to mental disability, or if s/he is under the age of 12 years.)

.....

(Name & Signature of Doctor)

.....

(Date, Place and Time)

# Components of comprehensive health care

- Immediate treatment of medical injuries and follow up treatment
- Post rape care including emergency contraception
- Post exposure prophylaxis for HIV, STD
- Prevention and access to safe abortion services
- Police protection
- Emergency shelter
- Documentation, forensic services and legal aids

- **Two marks of identification** such as moles/scars/tattoos etc preferably on exposed body parts to be noted
- Note size ,site ,shape, color
- Relationship with fixed bony part
- Left thumb impression of survivor in box provided

# Collection of samples

- debris present on any body part or clothes
- Clothes worn by victim at time of assault
- Swabs from all over body : mud, blood, semen, lubricant etc
- Scalp hairs
- Pubic hairs
- Axillary hairs
- Nails and undernailbed debris
- Vaginal /vulval swabs and smears
- Cervical swabs
- Oral /anal /rectal swabs and washings

## Samples to be sent to the hospital laboratory

- UPT to be done
- Blood sample for sexually transmitted disease- HIV, VDRL, HBsAg, HCV
- Radiological investigations including USG whenever indicated

Estimation of age by age estimation committee (whenever required)

# MTP

- MEDICAL METHOD OF MTP
- SURGICAL METHOD
- Doctor contacts the police station to collect DNA kit from FSL, bring it to hospital to coincide with date of MTP.
- Products of conception are handed over to IO .pocs are to be rinsed with normal saline.( not to be dipped , handed immediately or stored at 4degree c,, transported in ice box
- Blood sample of survivor is given in DNA kit.DNA kit form is filled ,one photograph of survivor is pasted on form

# CHAIN OF CUSTODY

- Hospital designates special staff to keep the possession of all evidence collected till handed over to IO.
- A DOCUMENT TO KEEP RECORD OF ALL STAFF IN POSSESSION OF EVIDENCE IS MAINTAINED.
- Evidence may be rendered inadmissible in court if chain of custody not maintained.

# ROLE OF NURSES

- Initial registering of case
- Counselling ,comforting ,
- First aid
- Call doctor and othe supposrt services
- Help in examination
- Help in evidence collection
- Sealing and stamping
- Ensure guidelines followed all throuth procedure
- Possesion of evidence till handed over

- Emotional support
- Provision of clothes,
- Administration of medications
- Tt injection
- Dressing of injuries
- Keeping record of equipments



STOP VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN & GIRLS

SAY NO!  
SPREAD AWARENESS

