

# **OSAC 2023-N-0015 Standard for the Education of Forensic Nurses who Conduct Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations for Adult and Adolescent Patients**

Forensic Nursing Subcommittee  
Medicine Scientific Area Committee  
Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science





**Draft OSAC Proposed Standard**

**OSAC 2023-N-0015**

**Standard for the Education of Forensic  
Nurses who Conduct Sexual Assault Medical  
Forensic Examinations for Adult and  
Adolescent Patients**

Prepared by  
Forensic Nursing Subcommittee  
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**Disclaimer:**

This OSAC Proposed Standard was written by the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science following a process that includes an [open comment period](#). This Proposed Standard will be submitted to a standards developing organization and is subject to change.

There may be references in an OSAC Proposed Standard to other publications under development by OSAC. The information in the Proposed Standard, and underlying concepts and methodologies, may be used by the forensic-science community before the completion of such companion publications.

Any identification of commercial equipment, instruments, or materials in the Proposed Standard is not a recommendation or endorsement by the U.S. Government and does not imply that the equipment, instruments, or materials are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

1 **Foreword**

2 The purpose of this document is to delineate the minimum required education of forensic nurses  
3 who conduct sexual assault medical forensic examinations for adult and adolescent patients. This  
4 document is not meant to replace existing education guidelines and should be utilized in  
5 conjunction with other published standards.

6 This document has been drafted by the Forensic Nursing Subcommittee of the Organization of  
7 Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science through a consensus process.

8 All hyperlinks and web addresses shown in this document are current as of the publication date  
9 of this standard.

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12 **Keywords:** forensic nurse, sexual assault nurse examiner, education

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26 Standard for the Education of Forensic Nurses who Conduct Sexual Assault Medical Forensic  
27 Examinations for Adult and Adolescent Patients  
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29 **1. Scope**

30 This document delineates the required education of forensic nurses who conduct sexual assault  
31 medical forensic examinations for adult and adolescent patients.

32 **2. Normative References**

33 The following reference documents are used [ indispensable] for the application of this  
34 document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest  
35 edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

36 Commission for Forensic Nursing Certification. (2021). Sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE-  
37 A® and SANE-P®): 2021 Certification examination handbook. [Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner  
38 \(SANE-A® and SANE-P®\) CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION HANDBOOK](#)

39 International Association of Forensic Nurses (2018). Sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE)  
40 education guidelines. [EDUCATION GUIDELINES Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner \(SANE\)](#)

41 International Association of Forensic Nurses (ND). Clinical skills lab curriculum.  
42 [Adult/Adolescent Sexual Assault Nurse/Forensic Examiner \(SANE/SAFE\) Clinical Skills  
43 Laboratory Curriculum](#)

44 Office on Violence Against Women (2018). National training standards for sexual assault  
45 medical forensic examiners, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. [National Training Standards for Sexual Assault Medical  
46 Forensic Examiners US Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women](#)

47 U.S. Department of Justice. Office on Violence Against Women. (2013). A national protocol for  
48 sexual assault medical forensic examinations adult/adolescent (2nd. ed). [A National Protocol for  
49 Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations - Adults/Adolescents Second Edition](#)

50 **3. Terms and Definitions.** For purposes of this document, the following definitions apply.

51 **3.1. Adult/adolescent** - An individual who has reached onset of menses or has  
52 developed secondary sex characteristics [adapted from IAFN SANE ed guidelines, p. 4]

53 **3.2. Competency** - [DRAFT - see AACN definition] required clinical skills performed  
54 under direct supervision until effective practice is demonstrated and documented by the  
55 preceptor.

56 **3.3. Didactic education** - designed or intended to teach people something  
57 <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/didactic> ; typically refers to the theoretical  
58 knowledge imparted to students in a variety of instructional strategies including lecture,

59 web-based, and/or simulation.

60 **3.4.** Clinical education - The opportunity for students to engage in real-life patient  
61 care, practice and refine skills, explore ethical issues, experience nursing roles, process  
62 clinical information, and connect theoretical content learned in the classroom to real-life  
63 practical situations (Oermann M.H., Shellenbarger T. (2020) Clinical Education in  
64 Nursing: Current Practices and Trends. In: Nestel D., Reedy G., McKenna L., Gough S.  
65 (eds) Clinical Education for the Health Professions. Springer, Singapore, p. 2)

66 **3.5.** Continuing education - An educational activity (such as a class, lecture series,  
67 conference, seminar, or short course) that is offered by a recognized organization or  
68 individual that brings participants up to date in their relevant area of knowledge. (CFNE  
69 International. (n.d.). Multidisciplinary glossary on sexual violence.  
70 <https://www.cfnei.com/glossary-index/>)

71 **3.6.** Forensic nurse - A registered nurse who has completed specialized training in  
72 caring for adult/adolescent and/or pediatric/adolescent patients following sexual assault  
73 [adapted from IAFN 2018 SANE Ed Guidelines, p. 4]

74 **3.7.** Nursing licensure - Licensure is the process by which boards of nursing grant  
75 permission to an individual to engage in nursing practice after determining that the  
76 applicant has attained the competency necessary to perform a unique scope of practice.  
77 Licensure is necessary when the regulated activities are complex and require specialized  
78 knowledge and skill and independent decision making. The licensure process determines  
79 if the applicant has the necessary skills to safely perform a specified scope of practice by  
80 predetermining the criteria needed and evaluating licensure applicants to determine if  
81 they meet the criteria. <https://www.ncsbn.org/licensure.htm> National Council of State  
82 Boards of Nursing (NCSBN, 2022).

83 **4. Minimum Licensure**

84 **4.1.** Shall be a registered Nurse (RN) with an unencumbered license eligible to practice in  
85 their jurisdiction.

86 **5. Minimum Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination Didactic Education**

87 **5.1. Initial didactic education**

88 a) The nurse shall complete didactic coursework consistent with the normative  
89 references.

90 **6. Minimum Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examination Clinical Education**

91 **6.1. Initial clinical education**

92 a) Clinical education is a required component. The nurse shall complete clinical  
93 education experiences consistent with the normative references.

94 b) Some states and/or programs may have additional clinical requirements. It is the  
95 responsibility of the nurse to know and adhere to these requirements.

96 **7. Continuing Education**

97 **7.1.** Forensic nurses shall participate in annual continuing education that allows the  
98 nurse to maintain competency and currency in forensic nursing practice.

99 **8. Informative References:**

100 Forensic Nursing Certification Board. (2022). Certification application manual: Generalist  
101 forensic nurse certified (GFN-C™) and advanced forensic nurse certified (AFN-C™). [1-27-22](#)  
102 [FNCB Certification Examination Application Manual](#)

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105 Appendix A  
106 Bibliography

107 This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list as the group recognizes other publications on this  
108 subject may exist. At the time this document was drafted, these were some of the publications  
109 available for reference. Additionally, any mention of a particular software tool or vendor as part  
110 of this bibliography is purely incidental, and any inclusion does not imply endorsement by the  
111 authors of this document.

112 1] American Nurse Association and International Association of Forensic Nurses (2017).  
113 Forensic nursing scope and standards of practice. 2nd ed. Silver Spring, MD. American Nurses  
114 Association.

115 2] International Association of Forensic Nurses. (2022). Sexual assault nurse examiner education  
116 guidelines. Elkridge, MD: International Association of Forensic Nurses.

117 3] Office on Violence Against Women (2018). National training standards for sexual assault  
118 medical forensic examiners (2nd ed). Washington, DC: US Department of Justice.

119 4] Office on Violence Against Women (2013). National protocol for sexual assault medical  
120 forensic examinations: Adults/adolescents (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: US Department of  
121 Justice.

122 5] World Health Organization. (2013). Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual  
123 violence against women: WHO clinical and policy guidelines. Geneva, Switzerland: World  
124 Health Organization.