

**SUSPECT EVIDENCE COLLECTION GUIDELINES SEXUAL ASSAULT
HARBORVIEW CENTER FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AND TRAUMATIC STRESS**

The following guidelines are for evidence collection from male suspects in sexual assault cases

TIME FRAMES	<p>WITHIN 72 HOURS OF ALLEGED ASSAULT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forensic evidence may be collected for both reference specimens and for victim trace evidence or DNA on the suspect <p>AFTER 72 HOURS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence collection is for reference specimens only These items are marked with asterisk*
WARRANTS AND CONSENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A warrant or signed consent is necessary before collecting evidence from the suspect's body ▪ A warrant, although it takes more time to obtain, is a more definite method than consent, as the suspect may withdraw or argue the validity of the consent
WHO DOES THE EXAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The exam and evidence collection may be performed by a trained detective, medical provider (nurse, doctor, or physician assistant), or technician ▪ The evidence collection should not be done on the same day by the same examiner who does the exam and evidence collection for the victim. This is to minimize risk of cross contamination of evidence. ▪ A hospital that routinely sees sexual assault victims may or may not be able to provide exams for suspects. Such arrangement must be made in advance, especially regarding billing and security
EQUIPMENT NEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20 packages (2 each) of sterile cotton swabs ▪ Distilled or sterile water or saline ▪ 2 plastic combs ▪ 10 clean sheets of paper ▪ 15 envelopes ▪ Brown paper bags for clothing
TRACE EVIDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Place large paper sheet or bed sheet on floor ▪ Place 2nd paper sheet (approx 24" x 24") on top of first sheet ▪ Suspect undresses while standing on clean large paper sheet ▪ Fold top sheet inwards to retain debris ▪ Place in clean envelope
CLOTHING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collect all clothing worn at the time of apprehension ▪ Underpants should be collected separately and placed in a small bag ▪ Each additional article of clothing should be packaged in a separate bag, and then all the bags should be placed in one larger bag and sealed
PUBIC HAIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comb hair over a clean sheet of paper. This is to collect any foreign hairs ▪ After combing, place comb in middle of sheet, fold sheet carefully to package comb and any foreign hairs, and place in envelope. ▪ Fold in a clean paper sheet and place in envelope
FINGER AND HAND SWABS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use 1 swab for each hand, lightly moisten with tap or distilled water ▪ Swab all fingers, front and back, fingertips, palms, web spaces with one swab

SKIN SWABS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Repeat with another swab for other hand ▪ Swab areas which may be bite marks or fingernail marks (to obtain possible victim DNA) ▪ Moisten one swab with one drop sterile or distilled water ▪ Swab each area with one moist swab – repeat with one dry swab ▪ Repeat for each scratched area
PENILE SWABS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use 1 swab slightly moistened with sterile or distilled water, and repeat with 1 dry swab for each area ▪ Swab the following areas ▪ Penile shaft (2 swabs) ▪ Glans penis, under foreskin (2 swabs)
DRYING SWABS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Swabs may be dried in a locked room, cabinet or drying box ▪ Air dry swabs for 1 hour before packaging. Do not use heat to dry swabs ▪ Maintain chain of custody while drying ▪ If drying box is used, place swabs from only one patient at a time in drying box. If necessary, lock specimens from 2nd patient in cupboard until drying box is empty. ▪ Clean drying box with hospital approved disinfectant between each use
LABELING AND PACKAGING SWABS	<p>Affix label to wooden shaft of swabs, 1 label to 2 swabs from same site OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Affix label to cardboard box or envelope in which dried swabs are packaged ▪ Place 2 swabs from same site in one envelope ▪ Seal envelopes using tape. Never lick envelope to seal ▪ Write on envelope time and date collected, contents ▪ Sign over seal
REFERENCE SAMPLES*	<p>HEAD HAIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pluck total of 10 – 15 head hairs close to scalp from each of the following sites: left side, right side, front, back, top ▪ Fold in a clean paper sheet and place in envelope ▪ May use a clean “Post-It” note adhesive side up, to remove hairs from glove: fold inward and fold in clean paper sheet and place in envelope <p>FACIAL HAIR (suspects with beard or moustache)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pluck 5 hairs close to skin from each of the following sites: moustache, left side of beard, right side of beard, neck <p>PUBIC HAIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pluck 10 hairs from the pubic area, from different areas ▪ The suspect may perform this process himself, with observation <p>ORAL (BUCCAL) SWABS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ With 1 sterile cotton swab, rub on inside of cheek and on gums, especially at base of teeth. Use another swabs to repeat on opposite side. Place on designated saliva DNA card. Dry thoroughly ▪ This is for reference DNA