

SFHHPC7

Conduct forensic physical examination of alleged perpetrators of sexual or physical assault



Overview

This standard is about the forensic physical examination of alleged perpetrators of sexual or physical assault by healthcare professionals. It includes obtaining the individual's consent, considering relevant background information and conducting a physical examination, noting anything of forensic significance.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 confirm that the individual has been assessed as fit to be detained in police custody
- P2 obtain relevant background information from other professionals e.g. from police officers and other healthcare professionals who have examined the complainant
- P3 advise that another healthcare professional should conduct the examination if you have previously examined others involved in the same offence
- P4 ensure that the room where the examination is to be conducted is forensically clean and that no others enter the room who have had contact with the complainant or other alleged perpetrators
- P5 communicate with the individual clearly and in ways that promote understanding
- P6 explain your own role and its scope, your responsibilities and accountability
- P7 respect the individuals privacy, beliefs and dignity as far as practicable
- P8 confirm the individual's rights and wishes and obtain their valid consent
- P9 arrange for the presence of a chaperone of the same sex as the individual
- P10 arrange for the presence of an appropriate adult in situations where the examination is of:
 - P10.1 an individual with a mental health condition or learning difficulties
 - P10.2 a child or young person who has consented to the appropriate adult's presence
- P11 ensure that any forensic samples to be taken are sufficient and justified
- P12 use appropriate questions to obtain details of the individual's health status and to inform assessment of their immediate medical needs
- P13 conduct a comprehensive general and forensic medical examination, noting anything which may have forensic significance
- P14 provide forensic documentation of the presence or absence of any findings, including injuries
- P15 refer individuals for specialist healthcare where required
- P16 provide and/or advise on any necessary aftercare
- P17 be sensitive to the psychological needs of the individual throughout the examination
- P18 keep accurate, legible and complete records in accordance with legal, professional and organisational requirements and guidelines

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the principles of valid consent and the ways in which an individual's ability to give consent may be compromised
- K2 how to establish the individual's best interests where there is doubt about the validity of consent
- K3 the consequences and available options when an individual refuses to give consent
- K4 when and how to obtain consent from a person with parental responsibility
- K5 the rules for obtaining consent from children and young people
- K6 the rules for obtaining consent from people with mental health conditions
- K7 people who may act as an appropriate adult, in accordance with national legislation and codes of practice
- K8 how to communicate clearly and in ways that promote understanding
- K9 your own responsibilities and accountability
- K10 the different types of needs, concerns and beliefs individuals may have
- K11 how to obtain background information from other professionals e.g. police officers
- K12 how to keep accurate, legible and complete records in accordance with legal, professional and organisational requirements and guidelines,
- K13 who should and should not be present when examining alleged perpetrators of physical or sexual assault
- K14 how to balance considerations of privacy with the need for personal safety during the conduct of physical examinations e.g. the appropriate role of an escort/chaperone
- K15 why individuals should not be asked for any details of the alleged incident, and what to do when individuals volunteer such information
- K16 why another healthcare professional should conduct the examination if you have previously examined others involved in the same offence
- K17 how to obtain details of an individual's health status and to assess their immediate medical needs
- K18 how to conduct a comprehensive physical examination and how to identify any aspect of forensic significance
- K19 how to arrange for forensic samples to be obtained
- K20 the likely psychological needs of a suspect during an examination
- K21 an in depth understanding of how to complete forensic documentation of findings including injuries
- K22 how to refer individuals for specialist healthcare
- K23 national legislation and codes of practice governing examination of alleged perpetrators of sexual and physical assault

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Additional Information

External links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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Suite	Police Custody
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