



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Early Evidence Kits.



On successful completion of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Explain evidential considerations when dealing with incidents of rape and serious sexual assaults including the use of evidential sample kits such as the Early Evidence Kit (EEK)
2. Explain the role of the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)
3. Summarise the First Responder's role at the scene of a serious sexual assault.

Early Evidence Kit

Check the Expiry Date,
do not use if the date
has expired

Check the box is sealed
and note the number
on the PPD3



QTS – in what circumstances do you think we would use an EEK?

This is a first response kit for the collection of samples at the earliest opportunity to capture vital evidence. It is to be used by the first officer attending and dealing with the victim.

This does not replace any subsequent forensic medical examination, but is complimentary to it and designed to capture evidence as soon as possible, and in order to aid the comfort of the victim, such as enabling them to then go to the toilet / have a drink.

The following items are in this kit:

1. Instructions for the collection of early evidence (this sheet)
2. Information to read to the victim
3. Consent form
4. Swab module
5. Early evidence urine sample module
6. Two pairs of disposable gloves

Urine samples & mouth rinse.

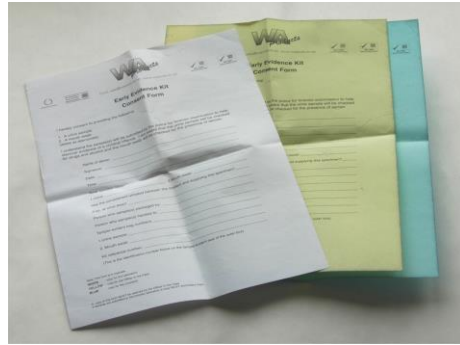
The ideal would be to use two pairs of gloves as this will minimise the transfer of DNA. If obtaining different body samples remove outer pair of gloves for each different sample. These only need to be retained if there are obvious deposits on them.

Two consecutive urine samples (provide them with sterile tissue paper if available) are best practice especially if alcohol or drugs are suspected. The container (the beaker that the victim urinates into) only needs to be retained if there are obvious deposits in it.

The urine and tissue samples will be the victim's exhibits and the mouth swabs and rinse will be the officer's exhibits.

Early Evidence Kit

Consent forms contained in the EEK **MUST** be signed by the victim prior to you taking any samples from them



These are the consent forms contained within the EEK they must be signed by the victim prior to you taking any samples from them.(IMPORTANT)

Information to read to the victim:

- The purpose of completing this early evidence kit with you is to maximise the opportunity to retrieve forensic material as this may be the only chance to do so.
- You will be asked to sign a form to agree to provide these samples.
- Nothing will be done without your consent and cooperation.
- The early evidence will involve taking swabs from your mouth and from any non-intimate parts of your skin where contact has been made by the offender.
- I will also ask you to provide a urine sample, and you will be asked to provide a second sample an hour later.
- I will also ask you to take your own vaginal swabs if you are happy to do so (**If relevant** - please see additional notes below)

Depending on what offence has been alleged and what fast track initial investigative opportunities exist, consideration should be given for the officer attending to ask the victim to swab the area (giving instruction) where there is potential forensic evidence recovery (and to prevent loss of evidence). For example if there are oral offences

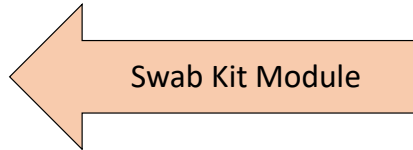
including bite marks in the area – swabs should be a consideration. Obviously this will be on a case by case basis with full and informed consent of the victim and only if absolutely necessary ie where potential DNA evidence could be lost before an FME examination can take place. After-all this is very big ask of a traumatised victim. Obviously if the victim is not comfortable with that then they don't do it... it is what it is. It is on a case by case basis though and only if absolutely necessary. It is along the same principle of them using a piece of tissue (also sometimes in the EEK but sometimes not) to collect any seepage if they need to use the toilet prior to FME exam (if tissue paper is not in the EEK and is used from their own toilet roll then a control sample would also need to be obtained).

- This is a standard practice for the gathering of early evidence with **all individuals**, and is necessary for progressing any Police investigation.

Other Sample Kits to Consider



Sanitary Wear Module



Swab Kit Module



QTS – in what circumstances would we use skin swab kit?

(ANSWER if there is a potential of recovering blood, semen or other fluid /DNA from the skin and without doing the swabs this evidence could be lost prior to the FME.)

Trainer to demonstrate how to obtain skin swabs.

There are kits for sanitary wear to be collected if the victim is menstruating and using them.

Do not allow them to flush them or throw them in the bin if they go to the toilet prior to the medical as they may contain evidence if they have been vaginally or anal raped



Cross Contamination

Avoid using the same car for victim and suspect

Place a paper sheet, bag or couch cover onto the seat to capture any forensic evidence

ALWAYS explain to them why you are doing this



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QTS – what must you think about when transporting a victim of serious sexual assault?

You must consider cross contamination when transporting a victim to the SARC.

Avoid using the same cars for victims and suspects.

Place a paper sheet, a paper bag or a couch cover onto the seat before the victim sits on it to capture any forensic evidence that may fall off they're clothing if they are the same clothes they were attacked in.

Please explain to them why you are doing this or they will think it is because they are dirty.

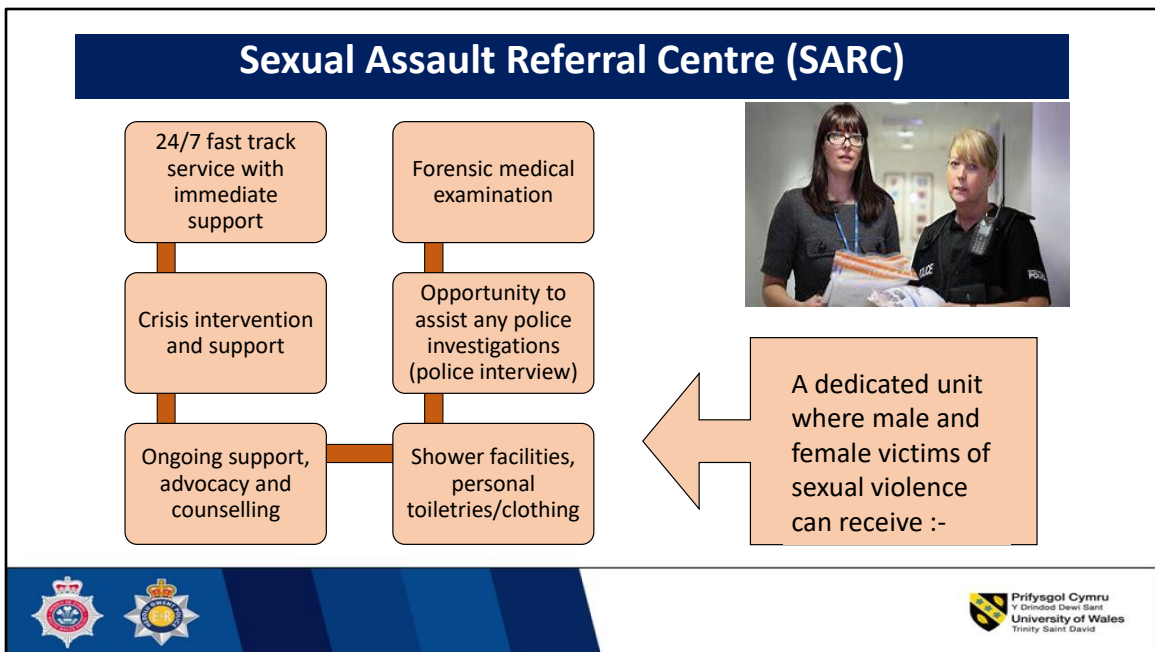
Next slide shows this

Couch Cover Module



This couch cover module can be found in the police station and the SARC. It contains a paper cover for placing on chairs and sofas to collect any evidence that may fall off a victim or suspect.

This will become an exhibit. Ensure that you fold it inwards to retain any deposits on the couch cover.



QTS – does anyone know what a SARC is?

Provision of sexual assault referral centres in Wales are provided by other agencies in collaboration with the police.

The SARC facility must be considered in all instances of rape and serious sexual offences. Utilising the SARC from the outset will ensure the right support for the victim throughout the process.

The SARCS provide one stop facilities with dealing with victims of sexual violence. They cater for Adults and children

In each of the SARCs there are medical examination suites that can be used by the police to facilitate a forensic medical examination of a rape victim. The suites are forensically cleaned and provide all the medical sample kits that are used in the examination and have facilities to take quality photographs and video of injuries by the FME if necessary. There are video interview suites in each Sarc and the police will conduct video interviews of the victim within the sarc. The SARCs give the victim access to counselling and therapy .And provide support in the form of crises workers

and ISVA's to guide them through the process and procedures of the judicial system.

SARCS also take self referrals for people who don't want to report to the police and they will share information and intelligence on crimes to the police to ensure that crime patterns and serial offenders do not operate without police knowledge.

The Cardiff Sarc is called Ynys Saf which means safe Island it is run by the NHS trust.

New Pathways run the other two SARCS in South Wales in Merthyr and in Swansea and also have one in Carmarthen (Dyfed Powys) and one in Newport (Gwent). New Pathways are a voluntary organisation formed initially as a helpline for rape victims in 1993 and have evolved since then.

Who do SARCS work with?

Victims of sexual violence in the immediate aftermath

People who have or want to report historical sexual abuse

People who are thinking of reporting sexual violence – current, recent or historical

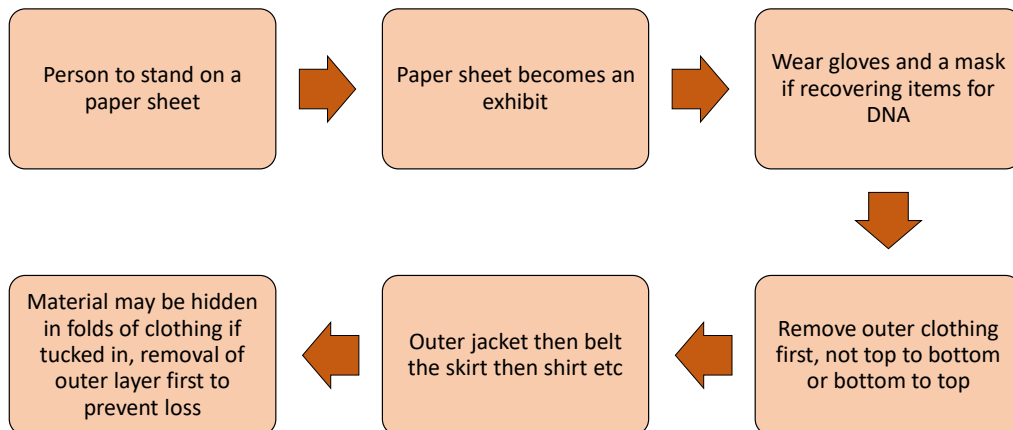
People who don't want to report – self referrals

Adults or Children, male or female

Sexual crimes take priority, however people considered vulnerable witnesses can also use the facilities

Handout to be given with the contact details of the SARC for both Gwent & SWP

Removal of clothing for forensic examination



QTS – what is the best way to remove clothing from a victim or suspect to collect as much potential evidence as possible?

If you need to remove clothing from a victim or a suspect to collect potential evidence which could be present there is a systematic way of obtaining the clothing .

Victim Clothing Module

If you have to collect underwear from the victim prior to the FME, this module is at the SARC that they can wear prior to examination. These items will be packaged and retained for any evidence that may fall off the victim



The Force Medical Examiner

The FME will expect a full briefing of what you know about the victim and offence. Make a note of what you tell the FME. The PPD3/SOLO Onyx booklet will assist in this.



FME will take an account from the victim to allow them to know the extent of the examination and samples required.

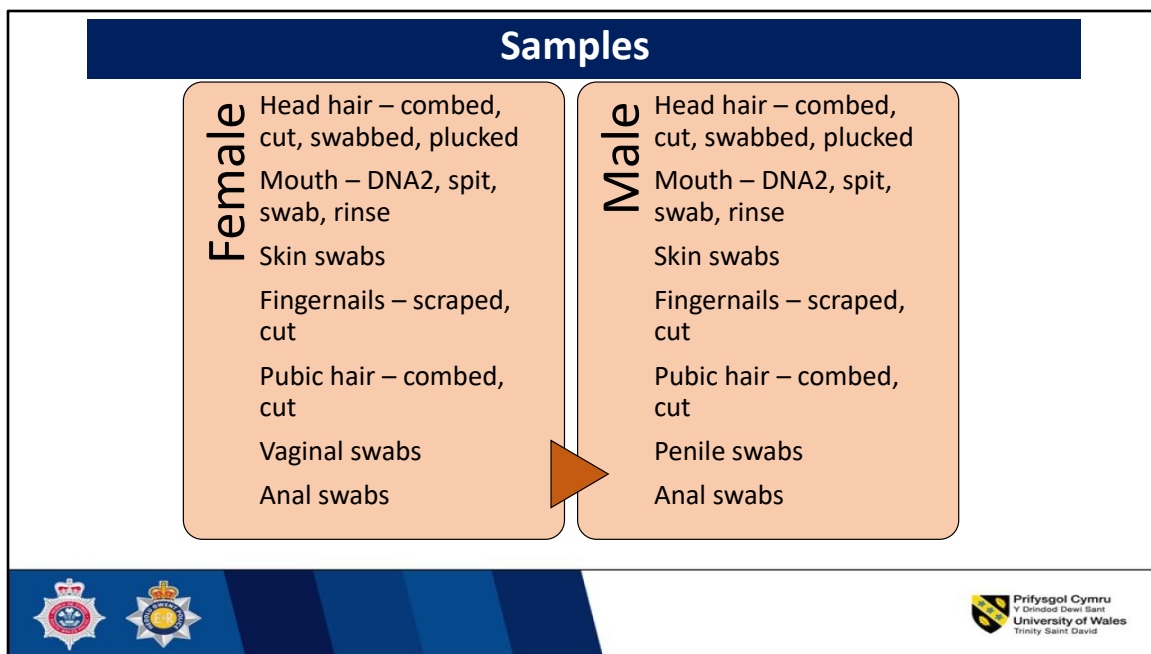


QTS – what will the FME expect from you if you are at a SARC with a victim?

They will expect you to give a full briefing of what you know about the victim and the offence. make a note of what you have said to the FME. The PPD3 form will assist you with this.

FME will take an account from the victim to allow them to know the extent of the examination required.

Trainer to use the white board to outline what samples are taken in the FME (next slide)



QTS – what samples and swabs do you think we take from female and male victims of serious sexual assault?

Swabs that can be taken from victims – taken by FME and handed to officer – **consider continuity.**

ONLY NECESSARY SWABS ARE TAKEN DEPENDING ON ACCOUNT GIVEN BY VICTIM

Skin Swabs

QTS – do we do wet or dry swab first?

Wet first then dry – explain: if suspect has licked, ejaculated etc on part of the victim's body by the time the swab is taken the product will have dried – wet the head of the swab and rub this on the area – then rub the dry swab over area – both are placed in separate swab tubes but can be exhibited in same exhibit bag.

Vaginal Swabs

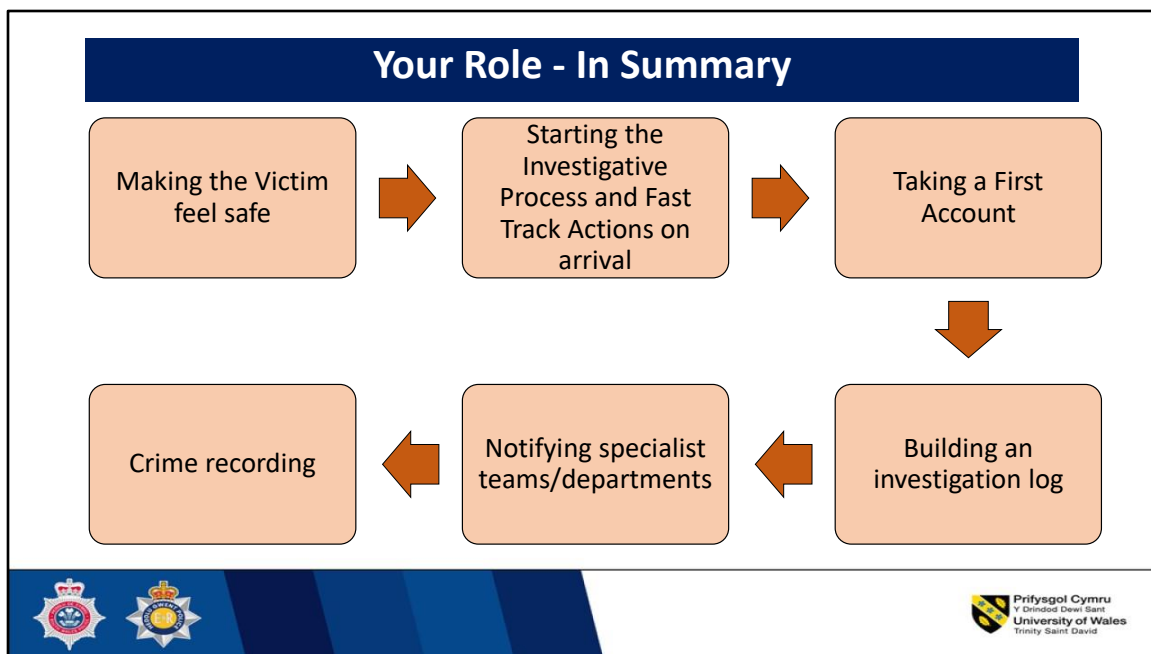
1. Vulva
2. Lower vagina
3. Upper vagina

4. Perianal (area between vagina and anus)

Anal Swabs only completed if allegation of anal penetration (penile, body part)

Penile Swabs –

1. Shaft of penis
2. Head of penis (including foreskin)



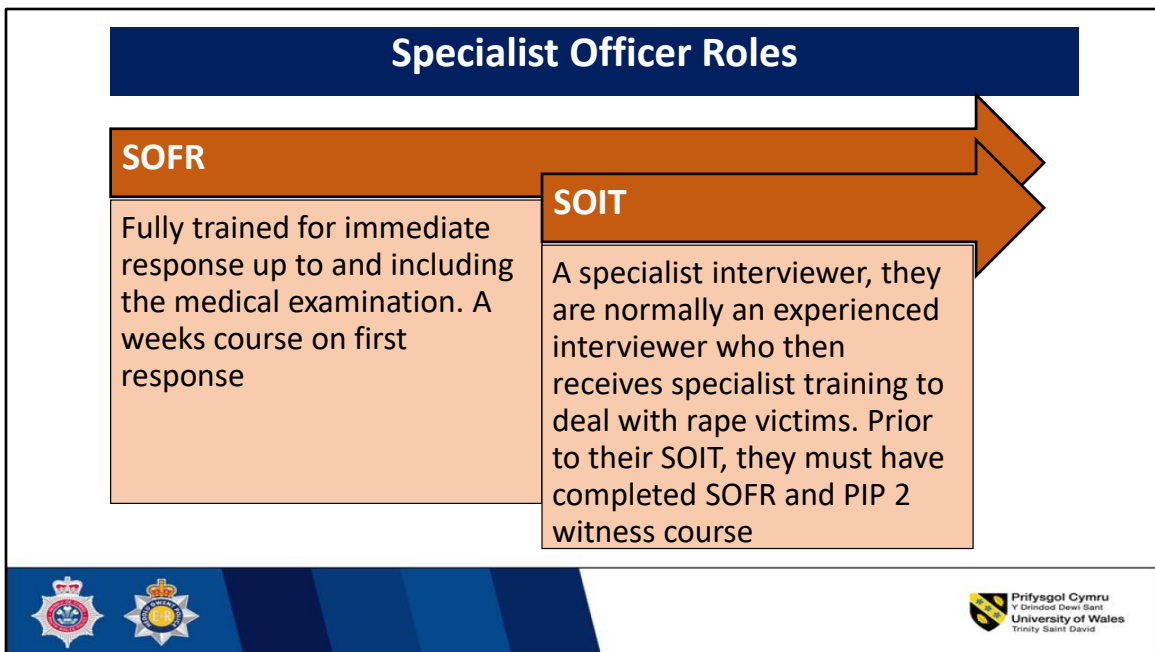
Please note that one of the points raised in the latest HMIC/HMCPSI report it was highlighted that crime recording standards were not being met in relation to rape and this could potentially lead to loss of intelligence on rapists in particular crime pattern trends and serial offenders with offences being no crimed when they should be crimed.

Officer to consider crime prevention but consider when this should be given.

A PPD3 (SWP document) is the Initial Investigation booklet and a disclosable document. The SOLO Onyx Booklet is to be used by Gwent Officers

A PPD3/ SOLO Onyx booklet is to be commenced by the officer who has first contact with the complainant and continued by the Sexual Offences Liaison Officer (SOLO)

Trainer to distribute/email the PPD3/Onyx booklet to Officers to highlight the areas to be completed by first responders.



SOFR (Formally SOLO 2) – Sexual Offences First responder – Officers who have received specialist training on taking first account from Sexual offence victims and assisting the FME with the examination.

SOIT (Formally SOLO3) – Sexual offences Investigation Trained – normally CID/PPU officers

