

1

*****REQUIREMENTS*****
Do not modify the size of this template. Respect the indications, if you do not follow the indicated instructions, we can not guarantee the correct display of your poster.

ONLY ONE SLIDE PER POSTER IS ALLOWED.

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POSTER

- Use this template to make your poster. Remember, do not change the size of the template (52x85), nor its orientation. Do not delete the congress banner.
- Type your poster number in the upper right side replacing 000 with your poster number
- Create your poster with 1 slide.
- Letter size equal to or bigger than 26 pts.
- Letter size in graphics and legends bigger than 22 points. Create the letter of the graphic when you already have the size of the subject graphic.
- Typography: use Verdana or Arial font.
- We recommend not using bold or italic text, it reads worse.
- Select a plain background without ornaments.
- Background color that contrasts with the letters of the text.

*****DELETE THIS TEXT BOX TO MAKE YOUR POSTER*****

2

Ge.F.I. UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE COLLECTION OF BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES FOR FORENSIC GENETIC TESTING IN THE MEDICAL LEGAL CARE OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND/OR ABUSE

Poster 182

OBJECTIVES:

- Update the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse.
- Update the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse.
- Update the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse.
- Update the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse.
- Update the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse.
- Update the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse.
- Update the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse.
- Update the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse.
- Update the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse.
- Update the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse.

BACKGROUND:

The Ge.F.I., Italian working group of the ISFG, updated the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse. The purpose of the updated Ge.F.I. recommendations is to guide the intervention of healthcare professionals considering the new DNA technologies and the increase in the analytical sensitivity.

METHOD:

Members of the Ge.F.I. working group revised the scientific literature and the international recommendations and guidelines. Group meetings were organized to evaluate each regional healthcare settings to adapt the procedures with the local facilities and health professionals training. Standard forms for informed consent, samples collection, chain of custody, and a list of materials/supplies useful in the collection of forensic evidence in hospital emergency departments were indicated based on the Italian law and penal procedures code.

FINDINGS:

The recommendations outline the referral pathway for the collection of forensic specimens in a hospital department:

```

graph LR
    A[CONSENT/REFUSAL OF FORENSIC SPECIMENS COLLECTION FOR MEDICAL LEGAL CARE PURPOSES] --> B[GUIDING CRITERIA FOR THE FORENSIC COLLECTION OF BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS]
    B --> C[GENERAL PROCEDURES ON SPECIMENS SAMPLING FOR HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS]
    C --> D[PAPERWORK TO BE COMPLETED AT THE SPECIMENS SAMPLING STAGE]
    D --> E[CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY FORM]
  
```

CONCLUSION:

International guidelines and scientific literature suggest that individuals who have experienced sexual violence often seek medical assistance, even if they fail to disclose the event itself. Our recommendations serve as 'minimum standards' that can be incorporated into the practices of health care providers and sexual violence and abuse response units for the standardised collection of biological specimens from survivors of sexual assault and/or abuse that are useful to the justice system and that also ensure the evidentiary value of biological specimens by properly maintaining the integrity and continuity of the chain of custody. The recommendations are available at <https://www.gefi-isfg.org/> and will be incorporated into healthcare practices to provide care and support to survivors of sexual assault (DPCM Nov. 24, 2017, as amended).

3

CONCLUSION:

International guidelines and scientific literature suggest that individuals who have experienced sexual violence often seek medical assistance, even if they fail to disclose the event itself. Our recommendations serve as 'minimum standards' that can be incorporated into the practices of health care providers and sexual violence and abuse response units for the standardised collection of biological specimens from survivors of sexual assault and/or abuse that are useful to the justice system and that also ensure the evidentiary value of biological specimens by properly maintaining the integrity and continuity of the chain of custody. The recommendations are available at <https://www.gefi-isfg.org/> and will be incorporated into healthcare practices to provide care and support to survivors of sexual assault (DPCM Nov. 24, 2017, as amended).

REFERENCES:

- World Health Organization & UNODC (2015). Strengthening the medico-legal response to sexual violence.
- Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (2016). Recommendations for the efficient DNA processing of sexual assault evidence kits.
- The Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians (2023). Recommendations for the Collection of Forensic Specimens from Complainants and Suspects, July 2023 version.
- National SART Guidelines Development Group (2023). National guidelines on referral and forensic clinical examination following rape and sexual assault (Ireland), 5th edition.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We are grateful to the Police Bureau of Forensic Services for their assistance in compiling this material.

CONTACT:

susi.pelotti@unibo.it

ISFG
CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR FORENSIC GENETICS
SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
9-13 SEPTEMBER 2024

POSTER NR. 182

Ge.F.I. UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE COLLECTION OF BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES FOR FORENSIC GENETIC TESTING IN THE MEDICAL LEGAL CARE OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND/OR ABUSE

Pelotti S.¹, Alessandrini F.², Barni F.³, Berti A.⁴, Bini C.¹, Buscemi L.², Gino S.⁵, Oldoni F.⁶, Piccinini A.⁷, Robino C.⁸, Fattorini P.⁹

- Section of Legal Medicine, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy
- Section of Legal Medicine, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Public Health, Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, Italy
- Carabinieri Scientific Investigation Department of Roma, Italy
- Carabinieri Scientific Investigation Department of Cagliari, Italy
- Department of Health Sciences, University of Eastern Piedmont, Direzione Medica dei Presidi Ospedalieri, AOU Maggiore della Carità, Novara, Italy
- Arcadia University, Glenside, Pennsylvania, USA
- Department of Biomedical Sciences for Health, University of Milan, Milan, Italy
- Department of Public Health Sciences and Pediatrics, University of Turin, Turin, Italy
- Department of Medicine, Surgery and Health, University of Trieste, Ospedale di Cattinara, Trieste, Italy

BACKGROUND

The Ge.F.I., Italian working group of the ISFG, updated the previous published recommendations on the collection of biological samples for forensic genetic testing in the medical legal care of victims of sexual violence and/or abuse. The purpose of the updated Ge.F.I. recommendations is to guide the intervention of healthcare professionals considering the new DNA technologies and the increase in the analytical sensitivity.

METHOD

Members of the Ge.F.I. working group revised the scientific literature and the international recommendations and guidelines. Group meetings were organized to evaluate each regional healthcare settings to adapt the procedures with the local facilities and health professionals training. Standard forms for informed consent, samples collection, chain of custody, and a list of materials/supplies useful in the collection of forensic evidence in hospital emergency departments were indicated based on the Italian law and penal procedures code.

FINDINGS

The recommendations outline the referral pathway for the collection of forensic specimens in a hospital department:

```

graph LR
    A[CONSENT/REFUSAL OF FORENSIC SPECIMENS COLLECTION FOR MEDICAL LEGAL CARE PURPOSES] --> B[GUIDING CRITERIA FOR THE FORENSIC COLLECTION OF BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS]
    B --> C[GENERAL PROCEDURES ON SPECIMENS SAMPLING FOR HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS]
    C --> D[PAPERWORK TO BE COMPLETED AT THE SPECIMENS SAMPLING STAGE]
    D --> E[CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY FORM]
  
```

CONCLUSION

International guidelines and scientific literature suggest that individuals who have experienced sexual violence often seek medical assistance, even if they fail to disclose the event itself. Our recommendations serve as 'minimum standards' that can be incorporated into the practices of health care providers and sexual violence and abuse response units for the standardised collection of biological specimens from survivors of sexual assault and/or abuse that are useful to the justice system and that also ensure the evidentiary value of biological specimens by properly maintaining the integrity and continuity of the chain of custody. The recommendations are available at <https://www.gefi-isfg.org/> and will be incorporated into healthcare practices to provide care and support to survivors of sexual assault (DPCM Nov. 24, 2017, as amended).

REFERENCES

- World Health Organization & UNODC (2015). Strengthening the medico-legal response to sexual violence.
- Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (2016). Recommendations for the efficient DNA processing of sexual assault evidence kits.
- The Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians (2023). Recommendations for the Collection of Forensic Specimens from Complainants and Suspects, July 2023 version.
- National SART Guidelines Development Group (2023). National guidelines on referral and forensic clinical examination following rape and sexual assault (Ireland), 5th edition.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the Police Bureau of Forensic Services for their assistance in compiling this material.

CONTACT

susi.pelotti@unibo.it

COLLECTION OF SKIN AND SUBUNGUEAL SAMPLES FROM THE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND/OR ABUSE