

Informed Consent for Forensic Nursing Care

The Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) will present the patient with 3 options for care which includes the risks, benefits, alternatives, and potential outcomes for each choice. Patients do not have to report to police to request a forensic examination

- Medical examination and care
 - Only medical care and safety assessment are completed
- Medical forensic examination with storage of collected samples for 1 year
 - This gives the patient time to consider if they would like to report
- Medical forensic examination with a report to police
 - Reports and samples are transferred to police right promptly following the exam
- Third Party (Anonymous) Reporting is available
 - FNEs work with 3rd party community site for this service

The patient gives permission for the care they receive and are in control of this decision and care. They can revoke or change consent at anytime during the examination.

Medical considerations

FNEs do not prescribe medications but do work closely with a doctor within the emergency department to ensure that the patient receives the indicated medications.

FNEs do conduct risk assessments to assess patient safety following interpersonal violence

Follow-up and Court Considerations

FNEs refer all patients for the necessary follow-up that they need following the exam

FNEs do attend court to give either fact or expert testimony when called

Forensic Nurse Examiners Do Not Conduct Forensic Interviews

The FNE specialized education describes the rationale and process of a forensic interview. FNE's are trained in how to illicit information about the incident without compromising or contaminating a patient's testimony. This primarily involves interviewing the family or caregivers in a separate room from the child if a forensic interview has not yet occurred.

Duty to Report

The FNE is trained in the understanding and responsibility of the Duty to Report to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). Every child who is seen by FNS is reported to MCFD.