

# Illinois Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training Program

## Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Guide

### Overall Considerations:

- Use in conjunction with the Sexual Assault Treatment Checklist Form
- Use in conjunction with the instructions provided in the ISPECK kit
- Per ISPECK instructions, the examiner should wear protective gear during evidence collection, including gloves, gown, mask and hair covering
- Gloves must be changed after each item of evidence is collected
- Thoroughly clean exam room and evidence processing areas
- Package unlike samples separately and in paper bags/envelopes
- Avoid contamination during collection and the drying of samples
- Evidence collection steps can be done in any order; patient comfort is a major factor throughout the exam
- There is only one chance to collect: when in doubt, collect it!

**\*\*\*Evidence Collection Kit shall be completed if the patient presents himself/herself within **7** days of the sexual assault.**

Type of Evidence Specimen	Reason to Collect	Collection Equipment	Method/Instructions
Miscellaneous/debris collection Clothing collection	If patient has not changed clothes post assault; to collect trace evidence that may be present on clothing	Cloth sheet/exam mat provided in ISPECK kit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Place clean hospital sheet on the floor</li> <li>2. Place cloth sheet/exam mat directly over the clean hospital sheet</li> <li>3. Patient stands on cloth sheet/exam mat</li> <li>4. Patient removes one article of clothing at a time</li> <li>5. Place each article of clothing in a separate paper bag</li> <li>6. Create a privacy wall for the patient during the process using a blanket</li> <li>7. Collect the cloth sheet/exam mat by placing in paper bag provided in ISPECK kit</li> <li>8. Always collect the patient's underwear even if not same as worn during the assault</li> <li>9. Document stains/tears in clothing</li> </ol>
Other debris collection	To collect trace evidence or other findings on the patient's body	Paper bundle; will need to add to ISPECK kit using new printer/copy paper; fold paper the same as bundle found in Step 10 (head hair combings)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collect any debris found on patient's body using a newly gloved finger or a swab; do not use forceps/tweezers</li> <li>2. Place each item collected in a separate bundle and place in envelope</li> <li>3. May need extra small envelopes</li> <li>4. Document debris/other findings</li> </ol>
Oral specimens	Oral penetration with or without ejaculation	Sterile swabs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use dry 2 swabs at a time; collect a total of 4 swabs</li> <li>2. Swab oral cavity of patient; concentrate on area between lower cheek and gums</li> <li>3. Air dry swabs</li> <li>4. Place in corresponding envelope</li> </ol>
Miscellaneous stains/bitemark evidence	Oral contact by assailant, i.e. anywhere the assailant touched the patient with his mouth (kissing, biting, etc...); to collect assailant saliva	Sterile swabs Sterile water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Moisten one swab with sterile water</li> <li>2. Swab the entire area/stain</li> <li>3. Air dry swab</li> <li>4. Place in corresponding</li> </ol>

	<p>To collect any area that fluoresces under a Wood's Lamp or other alternative light source</p> <p>To collect any dried secretions/stains noted</p> <p>Direct skin contact by assailant, i.e. anywhere the assailant grabbed the patient; to collect assailant skin cells/sweat</p>		envelope
Fingernail specimens	If the patient scratched the assailant during the assault; to collect assailant skin/blood cells	Fingernail wood scraper and bindle; one per hand; provided in ISPECK kit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove 2 specimen envelopes (right hand, left hand)</li> <li>2. Place bindle under patient's hand on flat surface</li> <li>3. Scrap nails while holding nails over bindle so that debris falls into bindle</li> <li>4. Refold bindle and place scraper and bindle in corresponding envelope</li> <li>5. Repeat steps for other hand</li> </ol>
Head hair combings	To collect trace evidence in patient's hair	Comb and bindle; provided in ISPECK kit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove paper bindle and comb</li> <li>2. Unfold paper bindle</li> <li>3. Comb head hair so that any loose hair/debris falls into bindle</li> <li>4. Refold bindle and place comb and bindle in corresponding envelope</li> </ol>
Pubic hair combings	To collect trace evidence in patient's pubic hair	Comb and bindle; provided in ISPECK kit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove paper bindle and comb</li> <li>2. Unfold paper bindle</li> <li>3. Place under patient's buttocks</li> <li>4. Comb pubic hair in a downward motion so that any loose hair/debris falls into bindle</li> <li>5. Refold bindle and place comb and bindle in corresponding envelope</li> <li>6. If no pubic hair present, document "patient groomed" and skip step</li> </ol>
Penile specimens	Oral, anal, digital or other contact	Sterile swabs Sterile water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Moisten 2 swabs with sterile water</li> <li>2. Swab shaft of penis and foreskin if present</li> <li>3. Moisten 2 more swabs with sterile water</li> <li>4. Swab glans (head of penis)</li> <li>5. Do not swab urethra</li> <li>6. Air dry swabs</li> <li>7. Place in corresponding envelope</li> </ol>
Vaginal/cervical specimens	Penile, digital, oral or other penetration with or without ejaculation; genital-to-genital contact	Sterile swabs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct external assessment for injury and swab external genitalia first if needed</li> <li>2. Place speculum; do not use lubrication per the request of the Illinois State Police Forensic Lab</li> <li>3. <b>DO NOT PLACE SPECULUM IN A PRE-</b></li> </ol>

			<p><b>PUBSCENT GIRL</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using 2 dry swabs, swab posterior fornix of the high vaginal vault (area directly under the cervix)</li> <li>Using 2 dry swabs, one at a time, swab the face of the cervix</li> <li>Air dry swabs</li> <li>Place in corresponding envelope</li> </ol>
Anal specimens	Penile, digital, oral or other penetration or contact with or without ejaculation	Sterile swabs Sterile water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moisten 2 swabs with sterile water</li> <li>Gently place inside anus so that entire cotton tip is within</li> <li>Move in circular motion and withdraw</li> <li>Then repeat with 2 more moisten swabs</li> <li>Air dry swabs</li> <li>Place in corresponding envelope</li> </ol>
Blood on filter paper	Reference specimen to obtain patient DNA	Filter paper Lancet	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write patient's name and date on filter paper; can also use a patient label</li> <li>Only touch bottom of filter paper with newly gloved hands</li> <li>Don't allow to lay on the counter; place on a clean paper towel or the envelope</li> <li>Finger stick patient with lancet; can use blood obtained for medical purposes/blood draw</li> <li>Fill 5 circles with drops of patient's blood</li> <li>Allow filter paper to air dry</li> <li>Place in corresponding envelope</li> </ol>
Urine specimen	Possible drug facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) based on signs and symptoms of patient	Urine specimen cup	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect earliest urine specimen possible</li> <li>Advise the patient to urinate directly into cup</li> <li>Do not place inside the ISPECK kit</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place all appropriate evidence specimens/envelopes inside the ISPECK kit</li> <li>Date and initial the red evidence tape provided in the ISPECK kit</li> <li>Place in the appropriate space to seal ISPECK kit</li> <li>Label ISPECK kit with requested information</li> <li>Maintain chain-of-custody until hand off to law enforcement or placed in a secure area for storage; document when either action is performed on the outside of the ISPECK kit</li> </ol>			

\*\*\*Patient can decline the release of evidence to law enforcement; the hospital is responsible for storing the evidence in a secure location for up to **14** days.