

OSAC PROPOSED STANDARD

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Proposed Standard for Minimum Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Contents

Forensic Nursing Subcommittee
Medicine Scientific Area Committee
Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science



DRAFT OSAC Proposed Standard

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Prepared by
Forensic Nursing Subcommittee
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This OSAC Proposed Standard has completed an open comment period and a rigorous technical and quality review by the originating OSAC unit (e.g., subcommittee), their parent body (e.g., scientific area committee), and the OSAC Standards Review Panel.

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1 Foreword

2
3 Sexual assault evidence collection kits (SAEKs) vary by state. Still, all include standardized
4 core elements—such as swabs for biological evidence, packaging materials,
5 documentation forms, and chain-of-custody systems—aligned with national forensic
6 guidelines to ensure the integrity and admissibility of the evidence collected. This
7 document provides the minimum standards for what shall be included in SAEKs,
8 regardless of jurisdiction.

9 This document has been drafted by the Forensic Nursing Subcommittee of the
10 Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science through a
11 consensus process.

12 All hyperlinks and web addresses shown in this document are current as of the
13 publication date of this standard.
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39 **Keywords:** *Sexual assault evidence collection kit, SAEK, SAK, medical forensic examination,*
40 *forensic nursing*

41	Table of Contents	
42	1. Scope	5
43	2. Normative References	5
44	3. Terms and Definitions	5
45	4. Requirements	6
46	Annex A	8
47		
48		

Standard for Minimum Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Contents

1. Scope

This document establishes the minimum requirements for supplies to be included in sexual assault evidence collection kits (SAEKs) used during sexual assault medical forensic examinations. The purpose of these minimum requirements is to ensure that all SAEKs contain the necessary supplies to collect, preserve, and package evidentiary samples suitable for forensic analysis.

This document does not address evidence collection procedures, clinical examination processes, contamination control, drying practices, additional examination, drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) kits, personal protective equipment, evidence storage, or chain-of-custody procedures.

This document addresses only the minimum contents of an SAEK and is not intended to prescribe specific manufacturers, commercial products, or kit configurations. This document may be used by entities assembling SAEKs independently (e.g., when commercial SAEKs are not available) or through commercial manufacturers.

2. Normative References

Technical Working Group on Biological Evidence Preservation. (2013). *The Biological Evidence Preservation Handbook: Best Practices for Evidence Handlers* (NISTIR 7928). National Institute of Standards and Technology. <https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.IR.7928>

3. Terms and Definitions

For the purpose of this document, the following definitions apply.

3.1

chain of custody

chronological record of the transfer, handling, and storage of an item from its point of collection to its final return or disposal.

3.2

evidence

body of facts, information, or material objects indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.

3.3

evidentiary sample

biological sample recovered from a crime scene or collected from persons or objects associated with a crime.

3.4

patient identifier

data element used to identify a specific individual.

3.5

sexual assault evidence collection kit (SAEK)

collection of items used by medical personnel to collect and preserve physical sexual assault evidence that can be used in a criminal investigation.

NOTE: A SAK may also be referred to as a sexual assault evidence kit (SAEK), sexual assault evidence collection kit (SAECK), or physical evidence recovery kit (PERK). ([Handbook on Biological Evidence Preservation](#), p. 59)

4. Requirements

SAEKs support the collection, packaging, and preservation of evidentiary samples obtained during sexual assault medical forensic examinations. Variability in kit contents across jurisdictions, healthcare systems, and manufacturers may affect the ability to collect samples suitable for forensic analysis.

Establishing minimum requirements for SAEK contents promotes greater consistency in evidence-collection practices and helps ensure that essential supplies are available regardless of the kit manufacturer or assembly method. This document is intended to support high-quality forensic evidence collection while allowing flexibility for jurisdiction-specific requirements and practices.

While this document describes the minimum requirements for SAEK contents, it is not necessary to use all SAEK contents. Evidentiary sample types include physical evidence in, on, or in the patient's possession at the time of the exam, biological evidence, and trace evidence.

SAEKs shall contain the following minimum contents:

- a. Sealed box or envelope system to maintain evidence security/integrity
- b. Step-by-step examiner instructions per jurisdictional policies/regulations
- c. Evidence sample recovery supplies:
 - i. Sterile swabs for biological evidence collection (2 per site) from the following sites:
 1. Oral (2 swabs)
 2. Vaginal and/or cervical (4 swabs)
 3. Vulva (4 swabs), Anal and/or rectal (4 swabs)
 4. Perianal (2 swabs)
 5. Penile and/or scrotal (4 swabs)
 6. Dried secretions, other contact (4 swabs)
 7. Known sample collection – (2 swabs)
 - ii. Trace evidence/debris collection (1 bundle/folded paper and 2 swabs)

- 125 d. Packaging supplies
- 126 i. Individual swab box/container/envelopes for each evidence collection
- 127 site
- 128 ii. Paper bags for clothing – Underwear bag (1), other clothing (4)
- 129 iii. Tamper-evident seals/tape
- 130 e. Means to document the following outside the box/envelope
- 131 i. Patient identifier
- 132 ii. Examiner
- 133 iii. Date/time
- 134 iv. Chain of custody
- 135 v. Tamper-evident seals/tape
- 136 vi. Biohazard label
- 137 f. Lab documentation form
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Annex A
(Informative)

Bibliography

- 1) Office for Victims of Crime. (2025). Evidence Collection, *SANE Program Development Guide*, https://www.ovcttac.gov/downloads/saneguide/sane-guide-revised-2025-formatted-508-12092025_JA.pdf . (Informative).
- 2) Response to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) “National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach” from OSAC Materials (Trace) Subcommittee Hair Task Group
[response to the nij publication national best practices for sexual assault kits.pdf](#)
(Informative)
- 3) Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting (SAFER) Act Working Group. (2017). *National best practices for sexual assault kits: A multidisciplinary approach*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.
- 4) <https://nij.ojp.gov/library/publications/national-best-practices-sexual-assault-kits-multidisciplinary-approach>. (Informative).