



EVIDENCE-BASED COLLECTION OF SAMPLES IN A WEST VIRGINIA SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KIT

Physical evidence (DNA) can be transferred from the assailant to the victim of a sexual assault in the form of semen, saliva, blood, hair, or sweat. Swabbing areas of the body, including intimate areas, where these fluids may be present is necessary to attempt DNA analysis to identify the assailant.

SWABS

- Generally, two swabs from each area of contact are collected together. Swabs of dry skin should be lightly moistened prior to collecting.
- Each area that was involved should be swabbed separately.
- Common areas of collection include: internal vagina, external vagina, anus, mouth, neck, breasts, or any other area where the assailant may have ejaculated, kissed, or grabbed.
- Swabs can be collected up to 96 hours after an assault, even if bathing/washing took place.

CLOTHING

- Clothing items including underwear may be collected to test for semen, blood, or saliva.
- If your clothing was changed prior to the examination, the innermost undergarment should still be collected.
- Sanitary pads should be left in place and collected with the underwear when present.
- Each item of clothing should be packaged separately and labeled.

OTHER MATERIAL

- Loose debris, vegetation, hairs, or other material should be collected into the debris collection envelope.
- Tampons, condoms, or other wet items (when present) should be collected into absorbent material and placed into an envelope.

KNOWN REFERENCE MATERIAL

- A known blood or saliva sample from the patient is needed to generate a DNA profile used for result interpretation.
- If the assailant's DNA may be in your mouth, a known blood sample is needed rather than a known saliva sample.
- If DNA from a consensual sexual partner may be present (consensual intercourse within 5 days prior to the assault) that person may be asked to provide a voluntary DNA sample.