



West Virginia SANE Training Overview

The Goal for Developing SANE Programs across WV

The goal of developing SANE programs across WV is to ensure that victims of sexual assault receive quality patient care, forensic evaluation, and a multidisciplinary approach that holds offenders accountable for these crimes and aids in recovery for any person who has been a victim of sexual violence.

The Mission of the West Virginia Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training Programs

The mission of the WV Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training Program is to provide comprehensive and consistent SANE education and training for registered professional nurses and other medical providers who are providing care for anyone who has been a victim of sexual assault.

The Importance of SANE Training

The effects of experiencing a sexual assault can be both physical and psychological, necessitating specialized care. SANE training programs are designed to train nurses to conduct a medical forensic exam and to collect evidence that could be used in a criminal trial.

This includes taking a medical history; documenting scratches, bruises, abrasions, and other injuries on a body diagram, taking photos of injuries, and collecting DNA swabs. In cases where DFSA is suspected, urine and blood will also be collected.

Frequently Asked Questions about Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) and SANE Training in West Virginia

What Is a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)?

A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) is a registered nurse or advanced practice professional nurse who is specially trained to provide comprehensive and compassionate care for patients who have been sexually assaulted or abused.

A SANE documents the patient's history of the assault, performs necessary medical exams, and collects forensic samples that may be used in the prosecution of the crime.

SANEs are trained in both the physical and emotional aspects of caring for victims of sexual assault and play a vital role in making sure that these patients receive the care they need and deserve.

SANEs collaborate with advocates from the local rape crisis centers who are available to provide resources and support to victims.

What training is required to practice as a SANE for Adult/Adolescent cases?

To be able to take the WV SANE online coursework, a registered nurse (RN) or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) must have a current, unrestricted licensure. It is preferred that nurses have 2 years of clinical experience before training to be a SANE.

The Adult/Adolescent WV SANE training involves the following:

- WV SANE Didactic coursework – (40 hours online)
- WV SANE Clinical Skills and Practicum Days – 16 hours (2 days face-to-face training)
- WV SANE Clinical Requirements with preceptor

➤ **SANE Online Training for Adult/Adolescent Cases – 40 Hours**

The 40 hours of SANE online training is offered by the WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services (FRIS). To better accommodate busy schedules, the 40 hours of SANE training is online and a self-paced course. It is available without cost to nurses.

The 40-hour SANE training includes information on how to:

- Obtain a relevant medical history from a sexual assault patient
- Conduct a physical examination specific to the medical history
- Document injury using photography, body diagrams, and charting
- Collect and preserve forensic samples
- Use the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory's sexual assault evidence collection kit (SAECK)
- Provide the patient with prophylactic medications and/or emergency contraception for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and pregnancy
- Treat and/or refer the patient for medical treatment

NOTE: Nurses can receive 40 contact hours of continuing education after completing the WV SANE Online coursework.

➤ **Registering for the WV Online SANE Training for Adult/Adolescent**

To register for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Online Training for adults and adolescents, go to sasta.fris.org/.

- Create a username and password as directed in the "Account Setup" process.
- Locate the SANE coursework by clicking on "View our Courses."

➤ **WV SANE Clinical Skills and Practicum Days**

Demonstration of clinical competence is a crucial component for completion of the adult/adolescent SANE training. The SANE must have a period of clinical practice with a qualified preceptor to adequately develop and demonstrate the competencies and skills required of SANES.

To address the rural nature of West Virginia and the lack of access to an in-person preceptor, the WV SANE Clinical Skill and Practicum course was developed. During this two-day course, students will gain the hands-on skills needed to practice as a SANE.

The 16 hours of in person training includes:

- Evidence collection techniques
- Speculum examination
- Medical forensic photography

- Injury identification and documentation
- Mock examinations on manikins and gynecologic teaching associates (GTAs)
- Discharge planning and follow-up needs
- Documentation and use of the WVSAECK

➤ **WV SANE Program Adult/Adolescent Clinical Training Log**

The WV SANE Program Clinical Log is the documentation tool and clinical requirements guide for the West Virginia Adult/Adolescent SANE program. The goal of this log is to ensure that the clinician becomes proficient and demonstrates competency in caring for the adult/adolescent sexual assault/abuse patient.

Components of the clinical training log include:

- Genital exams and competency validation tool with preceptor
- Specialized equipment proficiency training
- Criminal trial proceeding
- SAMFE virtual practicum
- Three training opportunities of the learners' choice related to SANE practice
- Medical forensic exams and competency validation tool with preceptor
- Attending both the WV SANE Clinical Skills and WV SANE Practicum Days

It is important to note that several items within the clinical training log are addressed and completed at the in-person training days, but the clinician is responsible to complete portions on their own as well.

NOTE: It is recommended that the clinical requirements be completed within a **six (6) month** time period, but they must be completed within the year following the didactic SANE training.

➤ **Working with a Preceptor to Complete the Required Clinical Requirements**

The clinical preceptor must be a licensed health care professional, certified SANE-A, AA SANE, Physician, or Midlevel Provider who has expertise in the examination of adults and adolescents who are victims of sexual assault.

➤ **Completion of Clinical Requirements – Next Steps**

- Once a nurse has completed all the clinical requirements, a completed WV SANE application along with signed documentation from the preceptor showing completion of the clinical requirements must be submitted to the WV SANE Coordinator.
- It is recommended that completion of the clinical requirements happen within 6 months, but no later than a year after completing the online coursework. If after a year, additional SANE training would be needed.

NOTE:

- A nurse who has completed both the SANE didactic and clinical training for the Adult/Adolescent coursework is referred to as AA SANE or Adult/Adolescent SANE.
- A nurse who has completed didactic and clinical training for Adults/Adolescents and passed the National SANE Certification Exam is referred to as a SANE-A.

What training is required to Practice as a SANE for Pediatric/Adolescent Cases?

In West Virginia, to be able to conduct pediatric/adolescent exams (prepubertal and adolescent patients up to 14 years of age), it is required that the SANE has completed all of the Adult/Adolescent SANE Online didactic training coursework and clinical requirements and have at least six (6) months of experience performing Adult/Adolescent SANE exams before taking the Pediatric/Adolescent SANE training.

The 40-hour Pediatric/Adolescent SANE didactic training is designed for medical providers who are planning to provide comprehensive care to pediatric/adolescent patients who have been sexually assaulted or abused. It is recommended that the clinical training should be completed in a timeframe that ensures competency and maximum retention of knowledge and skills, typically within six months of completion of the didactic training.

In developing the Pediatric/Adolescent Online Didactic coursework, WVFRIS followed the IAFN Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Educational Guidelines:

<https://www.forensicnurses.org/page/40HourSANE/>

[See Course Outline](#) for Pediatric/Adolescent Training for courses from the IAFN and the MRCAC:

https://www.forensicnurses.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Pediatric_SANE_Training_Outl.pdf

<https://www.mrcac.org/elearning/spring2024psane/>

➤ **WV SANE Pediatric/Adolescent Online Training - 40 Hours**

The WV Pediatric/Adolescent SANE Online Training was developed by the WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services (FRIS). To better accommodate busy schedules, the 40 hours of SANE training is available online at sasta.fris.org without cost. It is a self-paced course that is interactive and comprehensive.

The 40-hour SANE Online Didactic Pediatric/Adolescent Training will include information on the following:

- Procedures and techniques when conducting medical forensic examinations
- Informed consent with rights to privacy and confidentiality
- Medical history using a trauma-informed approach
- Head-to-toe assessment, including a detailed anogenital assessment, while using appropriate examination positions.
- History taking and assessing physical examination findings
- Specialized equipment and visualization techniques, including the use of photography to identify findings and documentation on the SAECK form body diagrams
- Injury/trauma recognition
- Normal variations
- Proper evidence-collection techniques with modifications based on the patient's age and developmental/cognitive level.
- Toxicology specimen collection for drug-facilitated sexual assault, specimen packaging and mailing
- Proper collection of specimens for testing for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and HIV
- Psychosocial assessment for safety

- Crisis intervention with referrals and information about services available from the rape crisis centers (RCCs).
- Discharge instructions and referral for next steps based on needs

NOTE: Nurses can receive 40 contact hours of continuing education after completing the WV SANE Pediatric/Adolescent SANE Online coursework.

➤ **WV SANE Pediatric/Adolescent Clinical Skills Course**

The West Virginia Pediatric/Adolescent Clinical Skills Course is a 1.5-day, in-person training designed to bridge the gap between didactic learning and clinical application for nurses preparing to serve as Pediatric/Adolescent Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (PA-SANEs). This course is intended for participants who have completed the 40-hour online didactic training and are seeking hands-on clinical experience to enhance their competency in pediatric and adolescent forensic nursing care, and is necessary to move to practice in WV as a PA-SANE.

➤ **WV SANE Program Pediatric/Adolescent Clinical Training Log**

There are also clinical preparation requirements that must be completed to be able to care for Pediatric/Adolescent patients that follow the IAFN Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Education Guidelines.

The WV SANE Program Pediatric/Adolescent Clinical Training Log includes:

- Pediatric/Adolescent well exams with a preceptor
- Specialized equipment proficiency training
- Meeting with the Children's Advocacy Center
- Meeting with the MDIT
- One additional training opportunity of the learner's choice related to SANE practice
- Medical Forensic Examination and competency validation tool
- Initial preceptorship and ongoing expert case review

The goal of the clinical training log is to ensure that the clinician demonstrates competency in care delivery to pediatric and adolescent victims of sexual assault and abuse. Upon successfully completing all components of the clinical log, nurses must submit a copy of the log, along with a certificate of completion of the West Virginia Pediatric Clinical Skills course, and an application to practice as a Pediatric/Adolescent SANE to the West Virginia SANE Coordinator at wvsanecoordinator@fris.org.

What if a nurse took the SANE training in another state?

If a nurse has completed the SANE training in another state, documentation of completion of both the didactic and the clinical requirements for the SANE coursework would need to be submitted the West Virginia SANE Project Coordinator who would determine if the SANE training coursework completed meets IAFN guidelines.

The nurse would need to complete a training program specific to West Virginia laws about sexual assault and sexual abuse, knowledge of what is required by the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory in the collection of forensic samples in sexual assault cases, direct submission, the SAECK tracking data system, direct submission, as well as WV resources that are available. Once completed, the nurse would be able to make an application to practice as a SANE in West Virginia.

Is national certification required to practice as a SANE in WV?

Certification as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner-Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A) OR Pediatric/Adolescent (SANE-P) is not a requirement to practice as a SANE in WV.

Certification demonstrates to nurse colleagues, clients, employers, and others in the medical-legal system that a SANE has successfully passed the certification examination and is knowledgeable of, experienced in, and committed to the SANE specialty practice. Individuals who earn the SANE-A or SANE-P credential obtain objective validation of their expertise.

The first step in the certification process is completing the SANE training coursework and clinical requirement expectations for both Adult/Adolescent and Pediatric/Adolescent cases.

NOTE: To learn more about the certification exam process, experience requirements, and costs for the exam, visit the IAFN website at www.forensicnurses.org.

Who do I contact for more information or resources about SANE training in WV?

The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services (WVFRIS), the state's sexual assault coalition, can provide resources and technical support needed to plan and coordinate SANE program development, as well as provide information about upcoming SANE training and clinical requirements needed to practice as a SANE in WV.

For additional information or questions, please contact the WV SANE Project Coordinator at wvsanecoordinator@fris.org.



The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services

www.fris.org

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