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# SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINER TRAINING



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UC DAVIS HEALTH SYSTEM  
OFFICE OF CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION AND  
CALIFORNIA CLINICAL FORENSIC MEDICAL TRAINING CENTER



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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT DAVIS  
California Clinical Forensic Medical Training Center  
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Sacramento, CA 95820



## ABOUT THE COURSE

### SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINER TRAINING FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

This five-day program focuses on fundamental forensic examination techniques for adult and adolescent victims of sexual assault. Using the CalEMA 2-923 form (formerly OES 923) and *California Medical Protocol for Examination of Sexual Assault and Child Sexual Abuse Victims*, this course is designed for the inexperienced examiner and teaches basic knowledge, skills and attitudes.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the program, participants should be able to:

- Describe models, components, structure and organization of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).
- Describe the mandatory reporting laws for healthcare professionals.
- Describe victim's legal rights.
- Identify pertinent Penal Code sections and definition of offenses.
- Describe the criminal justice investigation process.
- Develop essential skills for performing a sexual assault history and exam.
- Demonstrate knowledge about evidence recognition, collection and handling.
- Acquire skills to perform a complete forensic medical examination for female and male victims and suspects.
- Develop effective documentation skills.
- Describe the essential elements of Rape Trauma Syndrome and crisis intervention strategies.
- Summarize the importance of support and advocacy.
- Identify and classify genital and extra-genital injuries.
- Describe the written, diagrammatic, and photographic documentation of exams.
- Discuss special considerations and approaches for dealing with adolescent victims, intimate partner violence (IPV) and drug facilitated sexual assault (DFSA).
- Describe strategies for prophylaxis against STDs and pregnancy.
- Describe appropriate treatment, referral, and follow-up for the sexual assault victim.
- Draw appropriate conclusions and describe limitations in the analysis of findings.
- Describe an informal discussion of findings to law enforcement professionals and attorneys.
- Develop knowledge and confidence about providing expert courtroom testimony.

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

### DAY ONE

7:30 AM – Registration

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

- Welcome and Introductions
- Sexual Assault Response Team Models

Sexual assault is a complex problem best addressed by a coordinated team response. This module briefly reviews the history of rape and describes the fundamental features common to all SART systems.

- Basic Legal Issues

It is essential for sexual assault forensic examiners to be familiar with the elements of sex crimes and the investigative approach employed by law enforcement and prosecutors. This module also reviews mandatory reporting requirements, victim rights and sentencing guidelines

- Sexual Assault History

The forensic history in sexual assault is a combination of focused medical data and comprehensive assault-related details needed by the crime lab and the criminal justice system. The sexual assault history required by the Cal-EMA 2-923 protocol (formerly the OES 923) is discussed step-by-step.

### DAY TWO

8:00 AM to 5:10 PM

- Psychodynamics of Rape

The emotional impact of sexual assault is vast and devastating. Sexual assault forensic examiners must understand this unique trauma and be prepared with crisis intervention skills. This module also outlines the roles and responsibilities of the rape crisis counselor and their relationship with the forensic examiner.

- History Taking Activity

After didactic training about the sexual assault history, this interactive exercise allows participants to interview a "victim" and obtain the history with feedback from expert examiners.

- Anatomy Review

Pertinent anal and genital anatomy is reviewed and includes examples of normal variants, hormonal influence and age related changes.

- Exam and Evidence Collection

Documentation of findings and the management of evidence is the core of the sexual assault forensic examination. Meticulous attention to detail and adherence to CalEMA 2-923 procedures and protocols will be stressed in this step-by-step module.





## DAY THREE

8:00 AM to 5:05 PM

- Extra Genital Injuries

The evaluation, documentation and interpretation of traumatic findings related to the assault are essential skills for the sexual assault forensic examiner. Many examples of traumatic findings detected in the sexual assault exams will be presented.

## DAY THREE

(Continued)

- Ano-Genital Injuries

Sexual assault may result in injuries to ano-genital structures. Detecting and documenting these findings is an important component of the exam. Injury epidemiology and the challenges of evidence-based interpretation will be discussed.

- Special Problems and Challenges

This two-part module discusses the unique challenges of Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault and special consideration for dealing with teen sexual assault patients. The basic principles and practical approach to forensic photographic documentation of findings is a very helpful primer for the forensic examiner.

## DAY FOUR

8:00 AM to 5:20 PM

- Skills Labs

Day 4 of the training is dedicated entirely to practical “hands-on” exercises designed to build forensic skills required in the performance of the sexual assault examination. Participants uniformly report that the skills lab day builds not only essential skills but also confidence and provides a “put it all together” perspective.

## DAY FIVE

8:00 AM to 3:10 PM

- Treatment and Follow-up

The sexual assault forensic examiner must be prepared to counsel the sexual assault patient about dealing with the rape-related risks of sexually transmitted infection and pregnancy. The theoretical and practical considerations about emergency contraception and STI prophylaxis are reviewed.

- Assessment

Proper interpretation of findings, formulation of expert medical opinion and expert testimony are the most difficult and highest level of skill that the sexual assault forensic examiner must develop. This module will review the basic principles of evidence-based interpretation and presentation of findings as a starting point for the life-long development of forensic expertise.

- Effective Expert Testimony

The final module of the training provides an overview of effective communication in the courtroom setting. Basic “Rules of Engagement” and practical strategies for interacting with the criminal justice system will be presented.

## COURSE DIRECTOR

William M. Green, MD

Medical Director, California Clinical Forensic Medical Training Center, UC Davis Medical Center

Director, Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Team, UC Davis Health System Training Faculty

Dr. Green has been on the faculty of the University of California, Davis Medical School since 1976; he is currently Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine. Since 1985 he has been a consultant to the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (now CalEMA, California Emergency Management Agency) and was a contributor to the original medical protocol for sexual assault evaluation. He is currently the Chair of the CalEMA committee that is revising and updating the medical protocol. In 1989, Dr. Green was one of the founders of the Sexual Assault Forensic Evaluation (SAFE) Team at the University of California, Davis Medical Center and currently serves as the team's Medical Director. His publications include, *Rape: The Evidential Examination and Management of the Adult Female Victim*, published by Lexington Books. In 1990 he was appointed by the California Commission on the Status of Women to the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (now CalEMA) State Advisory Committee that oversees services to sexual assault victims. Most recently, Dr. Green worked with the core advisory group that helped draft the legislation which ultimately created the California Clinical Forensic Medical Training Center. He is currently Medical Director at the California Clinical Training Center at UC Davis in Sacramento, California.

## CO-COURSE DIRECTORS

Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH

Education Director, Adult Sexual Assault Education Program, California Clinical Forensic Medical Training Center, Sacramento, CA

Elaine Green, FNP

Senior Forensic Examiner, University of California, Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, CA

Leslie Schmidt, FNP

Emergency Department, University of California, Davis Medical Center Sacramento, CA

## COURSE FACULTY

Marilyn Kauffhold, MD

Assistant Medical Director, Forensic and Medical Services, Chadwick Center for Children and Families at the Children's Hospital, San Diego, CA.

## CONTINUING EDUCATIONAL STATEMENT

### ACCREDITATION:

The University of California Davis, Health System is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (AACME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

PHYSICIAN CREDIT: The University of California, Davis Health System designates this educational activity for a maximum of 35 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The following may apply CME Category 1 credit for license renewal:

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT: The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) states that *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* are acceptable for continuing medical education requirements for recertification

NURSE: For the purpose of recertification, the American Nurses Credentialing Center accepts *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* issued by organizations accredited by the AACME. For the purpose of relicensure, the California Board of Registered Nursing accepts *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* (report up to 35 hours of credit and fill in “CME Category 1” for the provider number).

PSYCHOLOGIST: This educational activity is recognized by the California Board of Psychology as meeting the continuing education requirements toward license renewal for California psychologist (self reporting required).

MFT and LCSW CREDIT: UC Davis Health System Office of Continuing Medical Education, Provider No. PCE 2354. This course meets the qualifications for 35 hours of continuing education credit for marriage and family therapists and/or licensed clinical social workers as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Participants must attend the entire course, write license number on the roster, and complete the course evaluation to earn credit.

### UC DAVIS HEALTH SYSTEM CME DISCLOSURE

Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships: As a provider accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, the University of California, Davis Health System must ensure balance, independence and objectivity in all CME activities to promote improvements in health care and not proprietary interests of a commercial interest. The provider controls all decisions related to identification of CME needs, determination of educational objectives, selection and presentation of content, selection of all persons and organizations that will be in a position to control the content, selection of educational methods and evaluation of the activity. Course directors, planning committee members, presenters, authors, moderators, panel members and others in a position to control the content of this activity are required to disclose relevant financial relationships with commercial interests related to the subject matter of this educational activity. Learners are able to assess the potential for commercial bias in information when complete disclosure, resolution of conflicts of interest, and acknowledgement of commercial support are provided prior to the activity. Informed learners are the final safeguards in assuring that a CME activity is independent from commercial support. We believe this mechanism contributes to the transparency and accountability of CME.

### UC DAVIS HEALTH SYSTEM CME MISSION

In concert with the University of California, Davis Health System mission of discovering and sharing knowledge to advance health, the continuing medical education mission focuses on the lifelong learning commitments of physicians who practice in the health system and in the greater Northern California region. UC Davis CME is at the nexus between scientific discovery and its translation to practice with a commitment to provide a variety of educational formats for evidence-based education that fulfills identified needs and produces changes in physician practice resulting in improved competence, performance and/or patient care. With an emphasis on multidisciplinary programs, content is based on competencies and bona fide needs assessments as well as clinical requirements. The CME Advisory Committee reviews the content and quality of CME offerings in accordance with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education's Essential Areas and Their Elements and the American Medical Association's Physician Recognition Award accredited provider information.

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