

# Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) Frequently Asked Questions

Can a registered nurse licensed in North Carolina collect forensic evidence for the Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit even if she/he has not completed SANE training?

Only a registered nurse certified as a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) is authorized to perform the full forensic medical examination of sexual assault victims. There is nothing in nursing law and rules to prohibit other nurses from collecting samples from victims as long as she/he possess the needed education, validated competence, and agency policies and procedures are in place. Such samples might include fingernail scrapings or simple skin surface swabs but would not include vaginal swabs requiring insertion of a speculum. The Board of Nursing cannot comment, however, about the legal admissibility of such samples for legal forensic purposes. Agency attorneys and local law enforcement must be consulted for guidance on these issues.