

## SUPPLEMENTARY FILE 4

The following steps outline the evidence collection process: <sup>10,31,37</sup>

### 1. **Clothes**

- a. Collect clothes worn at the time of the assault in a private room with a chaperone present.
- b. Use a large sheet of paper on the floor for the survivor to stand on while disrobing.
- c. Ask the survivor to remove their clothing in layers, handing each piece to you as they do so, and then change into a fresh set of clothes. The doctor should not attempt to undress the survivor; the survivor should be asked to undress themselves.
- d. Inspect clothes for stains or foreign materials, document their location, and describe each item in detail.
- e. If clothes are wet, air dry them in the shade to prevent fungal growth. Pack each item separately in paper bags, fold clothing inward to protect stains, and send them to the Forensic Science Laboratory.

### 2. **Blood**

- a. Collect venous blood samples in appropriate vacutainer tubes:
- b. Plain vacutainer tube for blood grouping and drug estimation.
- c. Vacutainer tube with Sodium Fluoride for alcohol estimation.
- d. EDTA vacutainer tube for DNA analysis.

3. **Urine:** Collect urine samples in a sterile container for drug and alcohol testing (especially if there is a history of usage of drugs, etc.)
4. **Evidence from the scalp:** Examine the scalp for any foreign materials or signs of injury. Collect loose hair or particles on a white sheet. If hair is matted, clip it for preservation.
5. **Evidence from the pubic region:** Examine for loose or matted hair and foreign materials. Collect hair or materials on a white sheet or using tweezers if necessary. Document the presence or absence of pubic hair.
6. **Fingernail Scrapings/Clippings:** Collect scrapings or clippings from under each nail. Use separate paper envelopes for each hand, and label them appropriately.
7. **Swabs:** Collect swabs from areas of potential penetration (vulva, vaginal wall, anal region, oral cavity) if examined within 96 hours. Air dry swabs, place them in separate tubes, and label them according to the area from which they are collected.
8. **Dried Stains:** Moisten and gently swab any dried stains with distilled water. Use separate swabs for each stain, air dry them and place them in labelled tubes.

9. **Products of Conception:** If the assault results in pregnancy and medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) is performed, preserve the products of conception in a clean container with crystal salt for DNA analysis.

Each piece of evidence should be collected with care and properly documented to support the investigation and legal proceedings. All forensic evidence collected should be air-dried, sealed, and labelled. It should be handed over to the Police while handing over the medicolegal report of examination findings.