

## Programme

### An Introduction to the Clinical and Forensic Management of Adult Complainants of Serious Sexual Assault

#### A 2-day 'theoretical' course for clinicians working at the Mater Dei Hospital, Malta and other delegates

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021, via an on-line platform

#### 1. Introduction

Medical staff in Malta approached the vice-president of the European Society for Contraception (ESC), regarding for the provision of theoretical training for up to 40 doctors. In addition, it is now understood there will be police, possibly some psychologists and psychotherapists, and others, with potentially an audience of 70 people, in total. The vice-president of the ESC approached a group of experienced forensic physicians/sexual offence examiners (SOEs) in the UK, the 'Clinical Faculty', to facilitate and deliver this training, and they do so, understanding that the primary audience are the clinicians, and:

- It is a 'basic course' delivered on 2 days in January 2021 and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be delivered via an on-line platform
- This programme has been developed using the list of topics provided:
  - *Forensic training, focusing on history taking, gynaecological trauma, gynae examination and specimen collection, documentation of findings.*
  - *Emergency Contraception provision*
  - *STI testing*
  - *Follow-up of patients*
  - *Counselling*
  - *How to manage male rape*
  - *The role of the specialist nurse within a Sexual Assault Service*
  - *The role of the police*
  - *Medicolegal aspects (but must then be tailored to Maltese legal system)*
  - *Writing a medicolegal court expert's report. Giving evidence in court.*
- Subsequently, further requirements/directions were provided by the British High Commission (BHC), who are funding this training:
  - *training re victim handling,*
  - *use of appropriate language*
  - *avoidance of any suggestion of victim blaming,*
  - *a standardized, internationally acceptable protocol for the Forensic examination.*

Clearly, much of what BHC requires is not only applicable to clinicians, and is 'standard' in UK clinical practice, as part of a 'trauma-informed' approach, but also applies to anyone providing care and services to complainants. An acceptable protocol would have to be

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developed locally, but informed by best practice and legal requirements in Malta, as well as Europe, the UK and other guidance, e.g. from the World Health Organization (WHO).

- The Clinical Faculty are:
  - Dr Sarwat Bari, Dip. GUM, LFFLM, MFSRH
  - Dr Emmeline Brew-Graves, MFFLM, MRCP
  - Dr Bernadette Butler, FFFLM, FRCOG, MFSRH; she will be the Lead Facilitator/Chairman for the 2 days

They work in a different jurisdiction (UK, specifically England) and have requested that, to address some forensic aspects, the law and legal requirements in Malta, as well provision of information on-going support/counselling of complainants, there are sessions from:

- The Maltese police force
- The Maltese Judiciary
- Victim Support in Malta (if possible)

## 2. Programme

In developing these two (2) days of training, the clinical faculty considered it important to state the following:

- This is a basic theoretical course, only, and does not, in any way, deem the delegates/trainees competent to undertake a forensic medical examination (FME). They must undertake further theoretical and supervised clinical training and demonstrate their competence
- Our approach is informed by the expectations of the UK's General Medical Council (GMC) and the UK standard setting body for forensic and legal medicine, namely the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM) of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP)
- The FFLM publishes quality standards and recommendations regarding introductory training, continuing professional development and peer review. In particular, their recommendation is that an Introductory Course (ITC) is 5 days (30 hours), to include a day to cover Court skills. The clinical faculty suggests that unless there is an equivalent body in Malta, or other European guidance, these FFLM publications should be taken into account, when developing appropriate clinical and educational supervision for trainees, to ensure that those undertaking this work, do so in such a manner to maintain patient wellbeing and safety, thus meeting the needs of the patient as well as those of the Criminal (and/or Civil or other) Justice requirements in Malta. The clinical faculty also suggests that consideration should be given to the acquisition of qualifications in clinical forensic and legal medicine.
- Clinicians must be familiar with what is required in their jurisdiction, so whilst the clinical faculty can provide basic information and principles, every clinician must ensure they are competent to undertake this work and keep up-to-date with the forensic and legal requirements in Malta, and/or across the European Union. (See resources section, appendix 1)

## 3. Pre-course reading

See appendix 2.

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#### 4. Programme

- Higher level learning outcomes (which have been developed primarily for the clinicians)  
Based on a trauma-informed approach, delegates/trainees will be able to:
  - Explain the presentation of sexual assault and rape in relation to an adult, whatever their age or gender
  - Describe the immediate and follow up medical needs and care of the complainant (victim)
  - Explain the approach to forensic medical examination, (FME), including obtaining samples and documenting injury and the modalities available to do so
  - Understand the requirements and content of a witness statement/report
- N.B.
  - In the timetable, times are given in local time in Malta, which is one hour ahead of GMT - UK times - which are in blue
  - All sessions are to include time for questions
  - All sessions to include some case examples, where possible

#### Day 1, Friday, 22/01/2021

Time: Malta (Time: UK)	Speaker	Topic	Learning outcomes
			Trainees will/will be able to
09:00 – 09:30  (08:00 – 08:30)	Speaker TBC  The clinical faculty: Dr Sarwat Bari Dr Emmeline Brew-Graves Dr Bernadette Butler	Welcome and introduction  Background: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ sexual violence as a major public health problem, terminology</li> <li>▪ statistics</li> <li>▪ trauma-informed practice/services; 'words'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understand the nature and prevalence of sexual violence and the terminology used</li> <li>○ Explain a trauma-informed approach</li> </ul>
Screen break 5 minutes			
09:35 – 10:15 (08:35 – 09:15)	Representative of Maltese Judiciary Dr Leonard Caruana	The law relating to sexual offences in Malta Briefing on providing a statement/report and giving evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Describe the relevant law in Malta</li> <li>○ Summarise requirements of a witness</li> </ul>
Screen break 5 minutes			

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10:20 – 11:00 (09:20 – 10:00)	Police Inspector Charlot Casha Malta Police Forensic Science Laboratory.	The role of the police, including securing early evidence Advice on types of early evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explain the role of the police, including specialist roles (need to confirm whether they exist)</li> <li>○ Describe types of early evidence and be able to provide advice on this</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:15 (10:00-10:15)	Tea/coffee break		
11:15 – 11:45 (10:15 – 10:45)	Member(s) of the clinical faculty	Complainant (victim): presentation and disclosure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Immediate vs delayed</li> <li>▪ What clinical experience and research tells us</li> <li>▪ The approach to referral for FME</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explain how and when individuals disclose/report and what influences this</li> <li>○ Describe triage of referrals for FME</li> </ul>
Screen break 5 minutes			
11:50 – 12:30 (10:50 -11:30)	Dr Bernadette Butler	Consent and confidentiality, information sharing Safeguarding, including risk assessment for mental health and domestic abuse and other inter-personal violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clinical aspects e.g. when taking informed consent for an FME</li> <li>○ Legal requirements (informed by sessions from police and Maltese Judiciary)</li> <li>○ General principles of safeguarding</li> </ul>
Screen break 5 minutes			
12:35 – 13:10 (11:35 – 12:10)	Dr Emmeline Brew-Graves	Obtaining the history <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From whom? Police and/or patient</li> <li>▪ Relevant to the allegation</li> <li>▪ Relevant to the care of the patient</li> <li>▪ Other relevant information</li> <li>▪ Use of relevant proforma</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explain how to obtain the history</li> <li>○ Use of proforma e.g. FFLM, WHO</li> </ul>
13:10 - 13:50 (12:10 – 12:50)	Lunch		

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13:50 – 14:45 (12:50 – 13:45)	Dr Emmeline Brew-Graves	Physical examination: Injury classification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bruises</li> <li>▪ Abrasions</li> <li>▪ Lacerations</li> <li>▪ Incisions</li> <li>▪ Bites/burns/chemicals</li> </ul> How and where to document injuries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Body; including non-fatal strangulation (NFS)</li> <li>▪ Ano-genital</li> <li>▪ Use of body diagrams/maps</li> <li>▪ Photo-documentation, including the use of the colposcope</li> <li>▪ Considerations in terms of immediate medical management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Describe the types of injury which may be found</li> <li>○ Explain how to document injury</li> <li>○ Use of body maps/ diagrams; provision of advice e.g. photography/ further assessment</li> <li>○ Intimate images and their management (based on UK guidance)</li> <li>○ Referrals and management of injury e.g. to emergency department</li> </ul>
Screen break 5 minutes			
14:50 – 15:30 (13:50 – 14:30)	Members of the clinical faculty All	Using images and body diagrams Discuss how to record the findings what information needs to be included. <b>N.B limitation on video recording of this session when images are used</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gain some experience of practical aspects of injury documentation</li> </ul>
15:30 -15:45 (14:30 – 14:45)	Tea/coffee break		
15:45 – 16:30 (14:45 – 15:30)	Members of the clinical faculty All	Discussion period to clarify any issues over the day Close of day 1	

### Day 2, Saturday, 23/01/2021

Time: Malta (Time: UK)	Speaker	Topic	Learning outcomes
09:00 – 10:30 (08:00 – 09:30)	Dr Bernadette Butler	Forensic medical examination: What samples to take and when: Swabs: time frames and samples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Triage of referrals (see above)</li> </ul>

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To include 5-minute screen break	With input from Victim Malta, if possible, to cover role of crisis worker	Toxicology: time frames and samples Labelling and storage Chain of evidence/custody Anti-contamination processes Non-police referrals (n-PRs), mention briefly, although not applicable to Maltese practice Role of crisis worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Determine what samples may be appropriate</li> <li>○ Understand processes to minimise contamination</li> <li>○ Explain chain of evidence</li> <li>○ Describe the role of the crisis worker</li> </ul>
Screen break 5 minutes			
10:35 – 12:00 (09:35 – 11:00) To include a 15-minute tea/coffee break at ~ 11:00/11:15 (10:00/10:15)	Dr Sarwat Bari	<p>Immediate medical care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment and management of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ injury (see above)</li> <li>▪ risk of pregnancy</li> <li>▪ risk of sexually transmitted infections, (STIs), including blood borne viruses (BBVs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provision of HIV-PEPSE (time limitations) (mention PrEP)</li> <li>▪ Provision of vaccinations, e.g. hepatitis B (HBV), tetanus etc</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Follow-up medical care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ STI testing and incubation/window periods and tests</li> <li>▪ Timing for pregnancy test</li> <li>▪ Dealing with pregnancy after rape</li> <li>▪ Chain of evidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explain immediate needs</li> <li>○ Describe local guidelines</li> <li>○ Describe assessment for EC and its provision</li> <li>○ Discuss STI risk and provide appropriate management</li> <li>○ Assess need for HIV-PEPSE and provide or refer in a timely way</li> <li>○ Advise on timing and type of follow up care</li> <li>○ Provide or refer for follow up care as per local guidance</li> <li>○ Be aware of the possibility of STIs being used in evidence</li> <li>○ Describe management of pregnancy after rape</li> </ul>
Screen break 5 minutes			
12:05 – 12:40 (11:05 – 11:40)	Dr Emmeline Brew-Graves and Dr Bernadette Butler	<p>Psychological impact of sexual assault 1</p> <p>On the complainant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Post-traumatic stress disorder and symptoms</li> <li>▪ Routes of referral for management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Describe risk assessment in relation to mental health</li> <li>○ Describe symptoms of PTSD</li> </ul>

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	With input from Victim Support Malta, if possible: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Counselling and other support, including pre-trial therapy (taking into account any legal requirements)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discuss local referral pathways</li> <li>○ Explain sources of support</li> </ul>
12:40 - 13:20 (11:40 – 12:20)	Lunch		
13:20 - 13:50 (12:20 – 12:50)	Member(s) of the clinical faculty Dr Sarwat Bari, Dr Emmeline Brew-Graves Dr Bernadette Butler	Psychological impact of sexual assault 2 On staff providing services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pro-actively addressing the risk</li> <li>▪ Staff support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explain vicarious trauma</li> <li>○ Describe what may help/self-care</li> <li>○ Discuss/describe what is/should be in place</li> </ul>
Screen break 5 minutes			
13:55 – 15:15 (12:55 – 14:15) Including a 5-minute screen break	Member(s) of the clinical faculty	Writing a report or statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Who is the ‘audience’</li> <li>▪ What to include – is there a template?</li> <li>▪ Interpretation?</li> <li>▪ Status of witnesses</li> <li>▪ Further training/Court observation</li> </ul> N.B informed by session on day 1 from Maltese Judiciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explain the role of the witness</li> <li>○ Describe the essential content of a report or statement</li> <li>○ Understand what additional training may be needed</li> </ul>
15:15 – 15:30 (14:15 – 14:30)	Tea/coffee break		
15:30 – 16:15 (14:30 – 15:15)	Dr Bernadette Butler	On-going support and training: CPD Clinical and education supervision Peer review- are there any legal implications Audit/research Clinical governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understand on-going training and CPD requirements</li> <li>○ Development</li> <li>○ Considerations for peer-review</li> </ul>
Screen break 5 minutes			
16:20 – 16:45 (15:15 – 15:45)	Member(s) of the clinical faculty all	Discussion period to clarify any issues over the day Close of day 2 End of course	

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## Other considerations/recommendations

Trainees and their educational supervisors should consider using the FFLM's compendium of validated evidence (COVE) document for the LFFLM SOM as a record of their development of their competencies; see: [LFFLM \(SOM\) | FFLM](#)

### Appendix 1: Resources

- The Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM) [www.fflm.ac.uk](http://www.fflm.ac.uk) e.g. sampling recommendations
- The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare [www.fsrh.org.uk](http://www.fsrh.org.uk) e.g. guidance on emergency contraception
- The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists <https://www.rcog.org.uk/> e.g. TOG articles, tutorial/webinar
- The British Association of HIV and Sexual Health <https://www.bashh.org/> e.g. guidance on HIV-PEPSE, 'window periods' and STI management
- The European Council of Legal Medicine (ECLM) <http://eclm.eu/>

### Appendix 2: Pre-course reading/preparation

#### 1. Revise:

- Surface anatomy
- Ano-genital anatomy and congenital anomalies
- Skin conditions
- Pubertal development/reproductive physiology and Tanner staging
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

#### 2. Read: the guidance on the FFLM website (see separate document)

#### 3. Textbooks: n.b. these are just a few examples; it is sensible to search to see what else is available.

- Dalton M, Ed. Forensic Gynaecology. Advanced Skill Series Cambridge University Press 2015 ISBN 978-1-107-06429-4
- Stark MM, Ed. Clinical Forensic Medicine – A Physician's Guide Fourth Edition. Springer Switzerland 2020 ISBN 978-3-030-29461-8
- White C. Sexual Assault. A Forensic Clinician's Practice Guide 2010 ISBN 978-0-9564737-0-7
- Wyatt JP, Squires T, Norfolk G, Payne-James J. Oxford Handbook of Forensic Medicine Oxford University Press 2011 ISBN 13:9780199229949

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4. Journals

- Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine
- Science and Justice
- Journal of Forensic Medicine
- Journal of Forensic Sciences
- Forensic Science International
- Forensic Sciences Research

5. Other links and information will be added as appropriate

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