

## Clinical Hours for Forensic Examiners

SART Listserv  
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*States are listed as a reference; not as a statewide perspective.*

**Background:** A nurse completed SANE training and now is in the process of completing her internship so she can take the IAFN exam to become certified. She is in a rural area and the closest SANE program is about 127 miles away. The nurse is having trouble completing the clinical hours required as part of the internship because of the distance to the nearest SANE. Are there any alternatives to this? Have other SART program run into this problem before?

### Michigan

- This is a common problem for rural and low-volume programs.
- A nurse does not need the IAFN SANE-A certification in order to practice as a SANE, but is recommended.
- Options to consider include:
  - Spend the weekend at an urban program to get experience.
  - Have a skilled nurse in her area supervise her.
  - The medical director could respond with her.
  - Hire a model to come in and allow a forensic exam to be done in order to facilitate the orientation process.
- In order for our nurses to become familiar with performing pelvic exams, we have sent them to the Health Department during the STD/Family Planning clinics.
- I work fulltime in an Emergency Department and was able to have the doctors (with risk management clearance of course) witness me performing the pelvic exam and naming the structures that I was visualizing.

### New York

- The nurse could work with an obstetrician until they both feel that orientation is complete.
- Physicians can also prove competency in future years for your program.

### Texas

- We only average 13 cases a month. It is hard for nurses to get the clinicals in, when they also hold fulltime jobs. I arranged for them to go to a city in the state that is very busy.
- For example, the nurses went to San Antonio on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, or Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. One of them had nine cases.
- Sending nurses to San Antonio was the only way we could manage the clinical. We also received extensions on the deadline dates.