



West Virginia SANE Training Overview

The Goal for Developing SANE Programs across WV

The goal of developing SANE programs across WV is to ensure that victims of sexual assault receive quality patient care, forensic evaluation, and a multidisciplinary approach that holds offenders accountable for these crimes and aids in recovery for any person who has been a victim of sexual violence.

The Mission of the West Virginia Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training Programs

The mission of the WV Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training Program is to provide comprehensive and consistent SANE education and training for registered professional nurses and other medical providers who are providing care for anyone who has been a victim of sexual assault.

The Importance of SANE Training

The effects of experiencing a sexual assault can be both physical and psychological, necessitating specialized care. SANE training programs are designed to train nurses to conduct a medical forensic exam and to collect evidence that could be used in a criminal trial.

This includes taking a medical history; documenting scratches, bruises, abrasions, and other injuries on a body diagram, taking photos of injuries, and collecting DNA swabs. In cases where DFSA is suspected, urine and blood will also be collected.

Frequently Asked Questions about Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) and SANE Training in West Virginia

What Is a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)?

A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) is a registered nurse or advanced practice professional nurse who is specially trained to provide comprehensive and compassionate care for patients who have been sexually assaulted or abused.

A SANE documents the patient's history of the assault, performs necessary medical exams, and collects forensic samples that may be used in the prosecution of the crime.

SANEs are trained in both the physical and emotional aspects of caring for victims of sexual assault and play a vital role in making sure that these patients receive the care they need and deserve.

SANEs collaborate with advocates from the local rape crisis centers who are available to provide resources and support to victims.

What training is required to practice as a SANE for Adult/Adolescent cases?

To be able to take the WV SANE online coursework a registered nurse (RN) or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) must have a current, unrestricted licensure with at least two (2) years of experience as an RN.

The required SANE training for Adult/Adolescent acute cases includes a 40-hour SANE training followed by the completion of 25 hours of clinical requirements with a preceptor.

➤ SANE Online Training for Adult/Adolescent Cases – 40 Hours

The 40 hours of SANE online training is offered by the WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services (FRIS). To better accommodate busy schedules, the 40 hours of SANE training is online and a self-paced course. It is available without cost to nurses.

The 40-hour SANE training includes information on how to:

- Obtain a relevant medical history from a sexual assault patient
- Conduct a physical examination specific to the medical history
- Document injury using photography, body diagrams, and charting
- Collect and preserve forensic samples
- Use the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory's sexual assault evidence collection kit (SAECK)
- Provide the patient with prophylactic medications and/or emergency contraception for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and pregnancy
- Treat and/or refer the patient for medical treatment

NOTE: Nurses can receive 40 contact hours of continuing education after completing the WV SANE Online coursework.

➤ Registering for the WV Online SANE Training for Adult/Adolescent

To register for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Online Training for adults and adolescents, go to <https://sasta.fris.org/>.

- Create a username and password as directed in the "Account Setup" process.
- Locate the SANE coursework by clicking on "View our Courses."

➤ Clinical Requirements for Adult/Adolescent with Preceptor- 25 Hours

Demonstration of clinical competence is an essential part of the completion of the adult/adolescent SANE training. The SANE must have a period of clinical practice with a qualified preceptor to adequately develop and demonstrate the competencies and skills required of SANEs.

There are 25 hours of clinical practice required following the 40-hour coursework. The nurse must select and work with a preceptor to demonstrate competency in conducting the medical forensic exam and collecting forensic evidence.

The clinical preceptorship must be guided by a physician, APRN, or forensically experienced nurse with experience in conducting medical forensic examinations. This work is done independently following the completion of the 40-hour Online SANE training.

NOTE: It is recommended that the clinical requirements be completed within a **six (6) month** time period, but they must be completed within the year following the didactic SANE training.

Who can work with a nurse to complete the clinical requirements following the completion of the WV Online SANE training for Adults/Adolescent?

The clinical preceptor must be a licensed health care professional, certified SANE-A, AA SANE, Physician, or Midlevel Provider who has expertise in the examination of adults and adolescents who are victims of sexual assault.

A preceptor (SANE-A, AA SANE, Midlevel Provider, or Physician) must agree to do the following:

1. Work with the nurse to complete the additional 25-hour clinical requirement.
2. Track and document hours of observation and practice.
3. Sign and complete the necessary documentation **ONLY** when competencies are met and all hours are completed.
4. Send the completed signed documentation to the **WV SANE Project Coordinator:**

**SANE Coordinator
%WVFRIS
112 Braddock Street
Fairmont, WV 26554**

NOTE: Detailed information about the responsibilities of a preceptor for working with a nurse can be found in the “Guidelines for a Preceptor for the Clinical Requirements and Supervision of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)” at www.fris.org.

➤ **Mandatory clinical requirements with a preceptor include the following:**

- **Mandatory clinical competencies**

- Mastery of conducting a speculum exam
- Completing a mock medical forensic exam using the WV SAECK and completing all the documentation
- Observing a medical forensic examination from start to finish
- Conducting a medical forensic examination
- Practicing documentation of injuries with a digital camera using the SAECK forms
- Attending court for a sexual assault trial

➤ **Options for clinical competencies include the following:**

- **Options for Clinical Requirements**

- Working through the Virtual Practicum DVD
- Meeting with a rape crisis center advocate(s)
- Meeting with the WVSP Forensic Crime Lab
- Meeting with the WV SANE Coordinator to seek input on collecting forensic samples
- Attending local SART meeting(s)
- Volunteering time for practice at a public health clinics and volunteering for a day to observe STI treatment in your community – Highly recommended
- Attending training webinars related to SANEs

➤ **SANE Adult/Adolescent Classroom Training**

(A nurse can attend the Classroom Training after the completion of the SANE Adult/Adolescent Online Training)

The SANE Classroom Training (8-hour skills day), offered by WVFRIS, provides information and practical application specific to the collection of forensic evidence in Adult/Adolescent acute cases while using the WV Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (SAECK).

➤ **SANE Adult/Adolescent Practicum Skills Day**

(A nurse can attend the Practicum Skills Day after the completion of the SANE Adult/Adolescent Classroom Training)

The SANE Practicum Skills Day (8-hour practicum) is offered by WVFRIS to review information specific to the collection of forensic evidence and provides practical application by utilizing the WV Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit with a standardized patient.

➤ **Completion of Clinical Requirements – Next Steps**

- Once a nurse has completed all the clinical requirements, a completed WV SANE application along with signed documentation from the preceptor showing completion of the clinical requirements must be submitted to the WV SANE Coordinator.
- It is recommended that completion of the clinical requirements happen within 6 months, but no later than a year after completing the online coursework. If after a year, additional SANE training would be needed.

NOTE:

- A nurse who has completed both the SANE didactic and clinical training for the Adult/Adolescent coursework is referred to as AA SANE or Adult/Adolescent SANE.
- A nurse who has completed didactic and clinical training for Adults/Adolescents and passed the National SANE Certification Exam is referred to as a SANE-A.

What training is required to practice as a SANE for Pediatric/Adolescent Cases?

In West Virginia, to be able to conduct pediatric/adolescent exams (prepubertal and adolescent patients up to 14 years of age), it is recommended that the SANE has completed all of the Adult/Adolescent SANE Online didactic training coursework and clinical requirements and have at least six (6) months of experience performing Adult/Adolescent SANE exams before taking the Pediatric/Adolescent SANE training.

The 40-hour Pediatric/Adolescent SANE didactic training is designed for medical providers who are planning to provide comprehensive care to pediatric/adolescent patients who have been sexually assaulted or abused. It is recommended that the clinical training should be completed in a timeframe that ensures competency and maximum retention of knowledge and skills, typically within six months of completion of the didactic training.

In developing the Pediatric/Adolescent Online Didactic coursework, WVFRIS followed the IAFN Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Educational Guidelines:

<https://www.forensicnurses.org/page/40HourSANE/>

[See Course Outline](#) for Pediatric/Adolescent Training here for courses from the IAFN and the MRCAC.:

https://www.forensicnurses.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Pediatric_SANE_Training_Outl.pdf

<https://www.mrcac.org/elearning/spring2024psane/>

➤ **WV SANE Pediatric/Adolescent Online Training - 40 Hours –Coming Soon**

The WV Pediatric/Adolescent SANE Online Training will be made available by the WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services (FRIS) soon. To better accommodate busy schedules, the 40 hours of SANE training will be available online without cost. It is a self-paced course that is interactive and comprehensive.

The 40-hour SANE Online Didactic Pediatric/Adolescent Training will include information on the following:

- Procedures and techniques when conducting medical forensic examinations
- Informed consent with rights to privacy and confidentiality
- Medical history using a trauma-informed approach
- Head-to-toe assessment, including a detailed anogenital assessment, while using appropriate examination positions.
- History taking and assessing physical examination findings
- Specialized equipment and visualization techniques, including the use of photography to identify findings and documentation on the SAECK form body diagrams
- Injury/trauma recognition
- Normal variations
- Proper evidence-collection techniques with modifications based on the patient's age and developmental/cognitive level.
- Toxicology specimen collection for drug-facilitated sexual assault, specimen packaging and mailing
- Proper collection of specimens for testing for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and HIV
- Psychosocial assessment for safety
- Crisis intervention with referrals and information about services available from the rape crisis centers (RCCs).
- Discharge instructions and referral for next steps based on needs

NOTE: Nurses can receive 40 contact hours of continuing education after completing the WV SANE Pediatric/Adolescent SANE Online coursework.

➤ **WV SANE Clinical Requirements for Pediatric/Adolescent Cases**

There are also clinical preparation requirements that must be completed to be able to care for Pediatric/Adolescent patients that follow the IAFN Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Education Guidelines.

IAFN guidelines indicate that the clinical training requirements be completed with the guidance of a forensically experienced physician, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, or a forensically

experienced registered nurse, SANE-A. Required clinical skills shall be performed until the nurse demonstrates competence, and competency is determined by the professional assessing the required clinical skills.

WVFRIS will have detailed information regarding the clinical competencies that are required by the IAFN Educational Standards when the SANE Pediatric/Adolescent Coursework is made available within the next few months.

NOTE: Information for Pediatric/Adolescent SANE Clinical Requirements will be provided by WVFRIS with the launch of the course. Refer to the IAFN Education Guidelines for Pediatric/Adolescent Clinical Preceptorship requirements.

https://www.forensicnurses.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/SANE_EdGuidelines_2022_Updated_Resources_-2.pdf

What if a nurse took the SANE training in another state?

If a nurse has completed the SANE training in another state, documentation of completion of both the didactic and the clinical requirements for the SANE coursework would need to be submitted the West Virginia SANE Project Coordinator who would determine if the SANE training coursework completed meets IAFN guidelines.

The nurse would need to complete a training program specific to West Virginia laws about sexual assault and sexual abuse, knowledge of what is required by the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory in the collection of forensic samples in sexual assault cases, direct submission, the SAECK tracking data system, direct submission, as well as WV resources that are available. Once completed, the nurse would be able to make an application to practice as a SANE in West Virginia.

Is national certification required to practice as a SANE in WV?

Certification as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner-Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A) OR Pediatric/Adolescent (SANE-P) is not a requirement to practice as a SANE in WV.

Certification demonstrates to nurse colleagues, clients, employers, and others in the medical-legal system that a SANE has successfully passed the certification examination and is knowledgeable of, experienced in, and committed to the SANE specialty practice. Individuals who earn the SANE-A or SANE-P credential obtain objective validation of their expertise.

The first step in the certification process is completing the SANE training coursework and clinical requirement expectations for both Adult/Adolescent and Pediatric/Adolescent cases.

NOTE: To learn more about the certification exam process, experience requirements, and costs for the exam, visit the IAFN website at www.forensicnurses.org.

Who do I contact for more information or resources about SANE training in WV?

The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services (WVFRIS), the state's sexual assault coalition, can provide resources and technical support needed to plan and coordinate SANE program

development, as well as provide information about upcoming SANE training and clinical requirements needed to practice as a SANE in WV.

For additional information or questions, please contact the WV SANE Project Coordinator at wvsanecoordinator@fris.org.



The West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services
www.fris.org