Forensic Nursing

- Forensic aspects of healthcare combined with the bio/psycho/social/spiritual education of the registered nurse

- Scientific investigation and treatment of trauma and/or death of victims and perpetrators of violence, criminal activity and traumatic accidents.
Forensic Nursing

- Provides direct services to individual clients
- Consultation services to nursing, medical and law-related agencies
- Providing expert court testimony in areas dealing with questioned death investigative processes, adequacy of services delivery and specialized diagnoses of specific conditions as related to nursing (Lynch, 1991).
Forensic Nursing

- 1990s
- Forensic Specialist in *Nursing*
- Forensic—pertaining to the law
- Focuses on areas where medicine, nursing, and human behavior intersect with the law and entails both living and deceased patients
Forensic Nursing

- All victims of violence
- Patients in police custody
- Sexual assault
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Child maltreatment
- Domestic violence
- Elder abuse
- Survivors of attempted suicide

- Automobile trauma
- Workers’ compensation
- Medical malpractice
- Food and drug tampering
- Environmental hazards
- Illegal abortion
- Occult-related injury/death
- Cults or religion abuses
Standards of Practice for Forensic Nurses

- Standard 1. Assessment
- Standard 2. Diagnosis
- Standard 3. Outcomes Identification
- Standard 4. Planning
Standards of Practice for Forensic Nurses

- Standard 5. Implementation
  - Standard 5A. Coordination of Care
  - Standard 5B. Health Teaching and Health Promotion
  - Standard 5C. Consultation
  - Standard 5D. Prescriptive Authority and Treatment
Standards of Practice for Forensic Nurses

- Standard 6. Evaluation
- Standard 7. Quality of Practice
- Standard 8. Education
- Standard 9. Professional Practice Evaluation
- Standard 10. Collegiality
- Standard 11. Collaboration
Standards of Practice for Forensic Nurses

- Standard 12. Ethics
- Standard 13. Research
- Standard 14. Resource Utilization
- Standard 15. Leadership

Facts
FACTS

- An American is assaulted every 2 minutes
- About 44% of rape victims are under age 18; about 15% are under age 12
- 1:6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape
- About 10% of sexual assault victims are male
- About 2/3 of sexual assaults are committed by someone who is known to the victim
- Less that 39% of sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement
Offenders
Offenders

- Average age is 31
- 52% are Caucasian
- 22% of imprisoned rapists report they were married
- Juveniles accounted for 16% of forcible rape arrests in 1995
- In 1:3 assaults, the perpetrator was intoxicated—the majority with alcohol
Offenders

- In 2001, 11% of rapes involved the use of a weapon.
- Rapists are more likely to be a serial criminal than a serial rapist with 46% rearrested for another crime within 3 years of release from prison.
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE)
What is a SANE?

- RN who has advanced education and clinical prep in the comprehensive medical forensic care of patients reporting a history of sexual assault
- Provides non-judgmental, unbiased care
- Provides a comprehensive medical/forensic/holistic exam
SANE Training

- 40 hrs lecture
- ~100 hrs community clinical time
- Supervised practice until competent
- Recommendations and training approved by IAFN
- Published recommendations for training through Department of Justice
Lecture Component

- Collaboration with related community agencies
- Forensic history
- Medical/forensic assessment and examination
- Collection and chain of custody
- Forensic photography
- Testing and treatment for STIs
Lecture Component

- Evaluation and prevention of pregnancy
- Chain of evidence
- Judicial proceedings and expert witness testimony
SANE-A Certification

- IAFN established in 2002
- RN with minimum of 2 years in practice
- Successful completion of adult/adolescent program
- Validated, supervised clinical practice
Pediatric SANE Training

- Pre-pubescent genital anatomy using the correct terminology.
- Child abuse advocacy center (CAC) and its purpose
- Specific growth and development for the prepubescent child.
- Open ended questions used in interviewing children
- Roles and scope of work of the Child Protection Worker, Forensic Interviewer, District Attorney and Law Enforcement in the multidisciplinary team in dealing with child sexual assault.
SANE-P Certification

- IAFN established in 2007
- RN with minimum of 2 years in practice
- Successful completion of pediatric program
- Validated, supervised clinical practice
- Valid for 3 years