



RUTH DOWNING MSN RN CNP SANE-A
Forensic Nurse Consultant · Family Nurse Practitioner
email ruth@forensichealthcare.com

Dear Healthcare Professional:

How prepared are you and your front line staff when caring for medical and legal (medicolegal) needs of patients involved in domestic violence, assault, sexual assault, child and elder abuse?

Forensic Healthcare Consulting wants to be your partner to successfully face the challenges of caring for your institution's and patients' medicolegal needs. At Forensic Healthcare Consulting, we tailor education and consulting services to meet the needs of your facility while assuring compliance with both the Ohio Revised Code and Joint Commission requirements.

Exposure to violence and abuse occurs at all age groups and crosses all socioeconomic levels. The medico legal needs and ongoing compliance with regulatory agencies are challenging. How you manage these challenges is entirely up to you but we're here to help.

Our focused training can prevent hospital liability, and improve overall quality of care. Types of specialty education your healthcare professionals require can include:

- Special expertise for screening patients
- Subsequently identifying patients of abuse and violence
- Knowing how to properly assess for, identify, and document injuries
- Collection and preservation of physical evidence while maintaining chain of command
- Gaining full comprehension of mandatory reporting and disclosure laws
- Familiarity of courtroom testimony

All of our trainings are customizable, multidisciplinary, while developing a strong foundation.

Enclosed you will find more detailed information about the key components and specialty skills Forensic Healthcare Consulting can focus on with your medical professionals. Violence is a health care crisis, but our mission is to approach forensic training through a caring, collaborative, coordinated, compassionate, competent, and patient-centered process.

The Health and Safety of your patients is your greatest responsibility –

Let Forensic Healthcare Consulting be your partner as you navigate through initiatives requiring ORC and Joint Commission compliance.

About Ruth Downing MSN RN CNP SANE-A
FORENSIC NURSE CONSULTANT
FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER
OWNER OF FORENSIC HEALTHCARE CONSULTING



Founder of Forensic Healthcare Consulting, Ruth Downing is currently a Family Nurse Practitioner in an Urgent Care. She has been a Registered Nurse for over 30 years in emergency and critical care, and a Forensic Nurse since 1999. Ruth has a vision of augmenting communication between the healthcare and legal communities to improve their response to victims of violence.

Over the span of her career, Ruth has been active in county, state, and national efforts addressing violence in our communities and has appeared as an expert witness in the areas of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Strangulation.

Ruth initiated and directed a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program for seven years. She is an active member of the Ohio Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses, and served as President in 2008. She is also a member of the Family Violence Prevention Center Advisory Council, the Central Ohio Rescue & Restore Coalition, the Ohio Sexual Assault Task Force, the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence Steering Committee, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses, and the Delaware County Medical Reserve Corps.

Among her other accomplishments, Ruth has authored “Manual and Ligature Strangulation” for *On the Edge*, and has presented at the International Association of Forensic Nurses’ Scientific Assembly, the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence, *Facets in Critical Care Nursing*, Ohio Association of Free Clinics, and The Ohio State University College of Nursing. She has provided education for nurses, physicians, social workers, EMS, law enforcement, parents, grand juries, and others.

During the summer of 2008, Ruth traveled to Huánuco, Peru at the special request of the International Justice Mission to provide education on sexual assault evidence collection to community leaders in health care and law enforcement. In 2009 she returned to continue educating community leaders in health care and law enforcement on child abuse, interpersonal violence and prevention. In 2010 she will again return with professors from the University of Tennessee, to expand educational efforts through the universities in Huánuco and Lima.

Forensic Issues for Healthcare Providers Part 1

Forensic Issues for Healthcare Providers Part 2

FORENSIC ISSUES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS PART 1

(Lunch Buffet Is Provided)

- Interpersonal Violence
- Identification and Documentation of Injuries
(with moulage to simulate wounds for hands on practice)
- Elder Abuse
- Courtroom Testimony

FORENSIC ISSUES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS PART 2

(Lunch Buffet Is Provided)

- Strangulation
- Stalking
- Gunshot and Stab wounds
- Vicarious Trauma

CHECK US OUT ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT

WWW.FORENSICHEALTHCARE.COM

**ADVANCING JUSTICE &
HEALTHCARE THROUGH
FORENSIC EDUCATION**

Seminars Designed For

- **Physicians**
- **Nurses**
- **Nurse Practitioners**
- **Physician Assistants**
- **And More!**



FORENSIC
HEALTHCARE
consulting

*Integrating
Health & Justice*

www.forensichealthcare.com

FORENSIC
HEALTHCARE
consulting

*Integrating
Health & Justice*

PO BOX 151 • DELAWARE, OH 43015

PH 740-815-8167 • FX 781-207-0235

www.forensichealthcare.com

***Interpersonal violence requires an understanding of various disciplines and the role each one plays
when interacting with victims of violence - Only Our Seminars Give You The Needed Tools!***

FHC SEMINAR INFO REQUEST

FORENSIC
HEALTHCARE
consulting

*Integrating
Health & Justice*

PO BOX 151 • DELAWARE, OH 43015
PH 740-815-8167 • FX 781-207-0235
www.forensichealthcare.com

RUTH DOWNING MSN RN CNP SANE-A
Forensic Nurse Consultant • Family Nurse Practitioner
email ruth@forensichealthcare.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Agency / Company _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Conference: Forensic Issues for Healthcare Providers - Part 1

Forensic Issues for Healthcare Providers - Part 2

Notes:

Education: Contact Hours Requested For Nursing EMS Social Worker Counselor Law Enforcement Prosecutor

Hotel Information:

University plaza Hotel & Conference Center

3110 Olentangy River Rd • Columbus, OH

Toll Free 877-677-5292 / Locally 614-267-7461

Special Room Rate Code: FNCI





Ruth Downing,
MSN RN CNP SANE-A

Forensic Healthcare Consulting Services:

- **Education/Seminars** — all are multi-disciplinary and customizable to any setting or need
- **Consulting** — Assist in: initiating, evaluating, and developing SANE & Forensic programs/services
- **Expert Testimony** — screen, identify, and prepare vital case facts

Meet Ruth!

Currently she's a family nurse practitioner in an urgent care, but has been an RN for over 30 years, and a forensic nurse since '99. Ruth has a vision of augmenting communication between the healthcare and legal communities to improve the response to victims of violence. She is very active in local & national efforts.

Upcoming Seminars!

- **May 6 & 7** (Topics Include: Identify/Documentation, Elder Abuse, Courtroom Testimony, Stalking, Vicarious Trauma)
Register online at our website!



P 740-815-8167
F 781-207-0235
info@forensichealthcare.com
www.forensichealthcare.com



It has been an exciting few months here at Forensic Healthcare Consulting. Ruth presented at the National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence in New Orleans. This was a workshop on strangulation with amazing co-presenters Gael Strack from San Diego's Family Justice Center, and Dr. Jacqueline Campbell from John Hopkins University. She also spoke on Female Genital Mutilation at the 17th Annual International

Preparing for Peru 2010!

Plans for Peru 2010 are very exciting. We are currently making arrangements to bring child sexual abuse experts with us to accelerate the trainings. More to come on this exciting collaborative effort to address child maltreatment in Huánuco, Peru.

By the way, we are looking for interpreters to accompany us to Peru. If you know anyone fluent in Latin American Spanish, send them my way! Fundraising efforts are underway and information is available on our website at www.forensichealthcare.com. Another way to be a part of this exciting work in Peru is through giving monetary contributions.

The pace is exhilarating, but it is so important to share this with other healthcare professionals who can really make a difference addressing the medical and legal issues of our patients. **Healthcare is truly the missing link in seeking justice for our patients!**



Welcome!

Many of you have been waiting for our first newsletter, so here it is!

New Seminars - Update On FHC Preparing For Peru 2010

Association of Forensic Nurses' Scientific Assembly in Atlanta, the 20th Annual Facets of Critical Care Nursing Conference, Ohio Association of Free Clinics 10th Annual Conference and family nurse practitioner students at The Ohio State University. Ruth will be providing SANE training in February and a strangulation training in Missoula, Montana in April (is there snow in Montana in April? Drop an email and let her know).

Why Attend FHC Seminars

When caring for a patient with medical/legal issues, do you wonder if there is more you should do for them? Do you worry about their safety when they return to an abusive environment? Are you uncertain how to document their history and assessment? Who can you refer them to? Does the idea of testifying in court make you sweat?!?

Our seminars address your fears; explain the importance of testimony from healthcare providers; and provide the tools needed to testify in court with confidence. Most importantly we address the hard questions head on, and clarify the healthcare provider's legal responsibilities of screening, documenting and reporting.

New Seminars Forming

Visit the FHC Website for all details at www.forensichealthcare.com

It's wonderful to see the positive responses from nurses who've wanted to address these difficult issues with their patients, but were just not sure how. Knowledge of these forensic issues is very powerful, and provides those on the frontlines with the tools needed to address these difficult issues confidently. (It also calms the fears of testifying in court.) For those who've enjoyed our seminars, send us your feedback - we'll post them on the FHC website!

Pass this newsletter on to your fellow nurses, physicians, EMTs, social workers and advocates. Also, send to your education directors. In order to continue to provide quality seminars and educational opportunities we need your help spreading the word (we are not grant funded). Together, let's improve the healthcare response to victim of violence in our communities!

Forensic Healthcare Seminars offer a unique learning environment where medical and legal professionals combine resources to address the challenges of community violence.

**Patients, clients, victims & survivors
are one and the same -**

**Only Through Collaboration
Can We Make A Difference.**

**All of our seminars are specifically designed with
YOUR health professionals in mind.**

When healthcare professionals understand the challenges law enforcement faces in providing justice for victims, they can realize the importance of asking the right questions, documentation, and providing a medical record accurately depicting the injuries incurred.

In addition, once healthcare professionals understand the prevailing legal consideration they will be in a position to provide continuity of care to victims of violence, and proper reporting to legal agencies.

**All seminars can be tailored
to assure Joint Commission compliance
when caring for victims of abuse.**



**ADVANCING JUSTICE &
HEALTHCARE THROUGH
FORENSIC EDUCATION**

Seminars Designed For

- **Physicians**
- **Nurses**
- **Nurse Practitioners**
- **Physician Assistants**
- **And More!**

FORENSIC
HEALTHCARE
consulting

*Integrating
Health & Justice*

www.forensichealthcare.com



Our Seminars Are Different!

**Forensic Healthcare Seminars Are Multidisciplinary –
offering an informative learning environment where healthcare
professionals learn to collaborate and integrate health and justice.**

This knowledge improves team response to community violence.

- Customized seminars to fit your staff needs
- Our speakers are experts in their fields and can include: physicians, nurse practitioners, RNs, sexual assault nurse examiners, detectives, prosecutors, social workers & advocates
- Educational contact hours can be supplied
- Multidisciplinary perspective to many difficult issues faced in healthcare & legal arenas
- Forensic-related vendors can be arranged

**Interpersonal violence requires an understanding of various disciplines and the role each one plays
when interacting with victims of violence - Only Our Seminars Give You The Needed Tools!**

The following presentations can be tailored or combined to meet the needs and interests of the audience and can be given in 1-8 hour blocks of time or over the span of several days.

Presentations Designed For Healthcare Professionals:

Forensic Nursing: A New Approach to Addressing Violence in Our Communities

Forensic nursing is defined as the global practice of nursing when health care and legal systems intersect. Exploration of the medicolegal needs of patients, the various areas of forensic nursing, and collaboration with law enforcement is discussed.

A Community Response to Sexual Assault

A sexual assault survivor has medicolegal needs that must be addressed by healthcare, social services and advocates, as well as law enforcement. Collaboration between these professionals is vital to addressing the immediate and long-term needs of the sexual assault patient. The dynamics of sexual assault and coordination of services to address the specific needs of this population is discussed.

Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault

Exploration of the various drugs used to incapacitate a victim are discussed, the evaluation of these patients, and the legal issues involved. Laboratory analysis of blood and urine is imperative and often inadequate in detecting the substances used. Current recommendations will be covered.

Issues On Domestic Violence for Health Care Professionals

DV is a public health crisis healthcare and social service professionals struggle to address due to medical and legal issues that may be difficult to understand. These issues are addressed head on, including screening, assessment of injuries, written/photo-documentation, evidence collection, safety planning, and community resources. The importance of documentation and the medical exemption to hearsay rule is discussed.

Strangulation: A Lethal Form of Interpersonal Violence

“Choking” is frequently used by abusers to control and overpower a victim, and has recently been recognized as a particularly lethal form of interpersonal violence. The difference between “choking” and strangulation, physiological effects, signs and symptoms and medical evaluation of these patients is discussed. Accurate documentation of this injury can provide law enforcement with the evidence needed for felony charges.

Written and Photographic Documentation of Injuries

Accurate documentation provides accurate depiction of injuries incurred, and may be important in future legal proceedings. Blunt/sharp injuries, fast-force firearm injuries, and bite marks are among those discussed.

Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation, or cutting, is the practice of partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is recognized internationally as a human right violation of girls and women. This presentation includes: the types of mutilation; the cultural, religious and social factors involved; and the health care consequences. Legal issues will also be discussed.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. It is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world, and occurs in Ohio. Victims are forced, defrauded or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. Victims are primarily women and children. Presentations include: types/ definitions of trafficking; physical/psychological consequences; and national/local responses. Identification of victims by health care professionals and law enforcement with coordination of community services are necessary to rescue victims.

Courtroom Training

The possibility of testifying in court brings fear to many health care professionals. This seminar will take away the fear of the unknown and provide the necessary tools to assist the professional to become confident and ready when summoned to testify. The importance of the professional's testimony is emphasized.

The following presentations can be tailored or combined to meet the needs and interests of the audience and can be given in 1-8 hour blocks of time or over the span of several days.

Presentations Designed For Healthcare Professionals:

Sexual Assault

The dynamics of sexual assault throughout the lifespan is the focus of this presentation. Current statistics, research, and the healthcare response to the patient presenting with sexual assault is discussed.

Medical Exemption to Hearsay Rule: The Importance of Patient History/Assessment

The value of the healthcare provider's testimony is emphasized, and is a missing link in addressing the needs of patients who may be victims of violence. Accurate documentation of the patient history and injuries incurred, increases the safety of patients and provides optimal follow up with community resources including law enforcement.

Identification and Documentation of Injuries

Accurate documentation provides accurate depiction of injuries incurred, and may be important in future legal proceedings. Blunt/sharp injuries, fast-force firearm injuries, and bite marks are among those discussed.

Photographic Documentation of Injuries

A picture tells a thousand words, and photographic documentation of injuries clarifies the written documentation of injuries. Photographs are a valuable tool should testimony be necessary or the victim requests restraining orders. Methods and principles of photography are discussed as well as confidentiality issues.

Team Collaboration: The Vital Link to Addressing Violence in our Communities

Collaboration between healthcare, social services, and law enforcement provides comprehensive care to victims of violence, and improves the safety of our communities. Healthcare is encouraged to share in a mutual responsibility with the legal system to provide optimal care for patients with medical and legal needs. Identification of team members, understanding their roles, and building a team of professionals is the focus of this presentation.

Strangulation: A Lethal Form of Interpersonal Violence

"Choking" is frequently used by abusers to control and overpower a victim, and has recently been recognized as a particularly lethal form of interpersonal violence. The difference between "choking" and strangulation, physiological effects, signs and symptoms and medical evaluation of these patients is discussed. Accurate documentation of this injury can provide law enforcement with the evidence needed for felony charges.

Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation, or cutting, is the practice of partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is recognized internationally as a human right violation of girls and women. This presentation includes: the types of mutilation; the cultural, religious and social factors involved; and the health care consequences. Legal issues will also be discussed.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. It is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world, and occurs in Ohio. Victims are forced, defrauded or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. Victims are primarily women and children. Presentations include: types/ definitions of trafficking; physical/psychological consequences; and national/local responses. Identification of victims by health care professionals and law enforcement with coordination of community services is necessary to rescue victims.

Courtroom Training

The possibility of testifying in court brings fear to many health care professionals. This seminar will take away the fear of the unknown and provide the necessary tools to assist the professional to become confident and ready when summoned to testify. The importance of the professional's testimony is emphasized.

The following presentations can be tailored or combined to meet the needs and interests of the audience and can be given in 1-8 hour blocks of time or over the span of several days.

Presentations Designed For Healthcare Professionals:

Domestic Violence and Nursing Care

A comprehensive presentation on the healthcare implications of domestic violence (DV) and a discussion on the prevalence of domestic violence in the United States can be provided in order to meet JACHO standards. The presentation will discuss types of domestic violence, health implications as well as sign and symptoms associated with DV. The learner will also learn about how to document DV and provide non-judgmental care of the DV patient.

As consultants, we can review medical documentation with this patient population and review current policy and procedures, and provide feedback to organizations to assist with meeting JACHO requirements.

Sexual Assault Evidence Collection and Treatment of the Sexual Assault Patient

The Ohio Revised Code states that any healthcare facility that provides organized emergency services must provide evidence collection as part of their care. Unfortunately, many organizations do not provide education regarding the "How to" for performing this service. The presentation will discuss misconceptions surrounding sexual assault, the Ohio Revised Code, mandatory reporting requirements as well as the Ohio Department of Health's protocol for the sexually assaulted patient. Discussion on appropriate evidence collection and filling out reimbursements form to assist in full compensation from the Victim's of Crime compensation fund. Depending on class size a hands on opportunity can be provided.

Consulting services are also available. Consultants can review charting to assist the hospital/organization receives full reimbursement from the states Victim of Crime compensation (SAFE) program. Consultants can also review policy and procedures to ensure that the hospital/organization is in line with the ODH protocol.



Our Honorarium Structure

Education and awareness is the utmost importance with Forensic Healthcare and we will work with any organization to be able to bring our message to them in a fair and equitable arrangement. Special consideration will always be made to non profits, student organizations, schools and churches. Below you will find our honorarium structure.

1-2 Hour Presentation or Workshop* starts at \$300

Keynote Address at a Conference* starts at \$500

3-4 Hour Presentation* starts at \$600

All Day Presentation or Workshop* starts at \$900

**honorarium fee does not include material cost, location and related fees, lodging, travel and any other presentation related cost. All additional costs will be discussed prior to any presentation agreement.*



740-815-8167 • www.forensichealthcare.com

Email info@forensichealthcare.com

RUTH DOWNING MSN RN CNP SANE-A
Forensic Nurse Consultant • Family Nurse Practitioner

What Others Have To Say About Our Seminars!

A Nurse who attended one of our SANE training seminars wrote:

You are an excellent presenter and kept my attention the whole time. Thanks for sharing all your experience and the enthusiasm you obviously have for your work. I definitely would be interested in being on your team in the future! Also, thanks to Ruth for sharing the new career direction with us. You make me want to be a SANE nurse. Ruth and Alison are an inspiration. Ruth has so much passion!! Alison is an awesome nurse. I hope to be like them one day as a SANE. All the speakers were great.

A Nurse Practitioner who attended all our 2009 DV seminars wrote:

The seminars by Forensic Healthcare Consulting are very informative and exciting. They keep you interested and eager to learn more. And, best of all - the presenters are very knowledgeable and offer a wealth of information!

A Deputy Sheriff/RN who attended our Winter 2008 Domestic Violence and Strangulation seminars wrote:

This is an outstanding program and has been needed for a long time. I'm glad it's happening for both law enforcement and nursing. Very educational.

A Victim Witness Advocate who attended our Winter 2008 Strangulation seminar wrote:

This was such a unique and important training. We have revised our safety planning to include specifics from the training.

An RN Emergency Department and EMS Paramedic who attended our Winter 2008 Strangulation seminar wrote:

It was excellent and gave us tools to work with in our practice that was very much needed. I got so much out of the Strangulation inservice. The check list with the body map came in handy last night at work. Thank you so much for all your efforts. They are very much appreciated and needed...

A Legal Professional who attended our Winter 2008 Strangulation seminar wrote:

Exceptional! Just Exceptional!

A Legal Professional who attended our Winter 2008 DV seminar wrote:

Excellent conference! Very good seminar! Most informational!