

RIGOROUS ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Emma Durmaz explains her role as a forensic nurse examiner in sexual offences

I am the clinical manager and forensic nurse examiner (FNE) at the Glade Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Worcester.

Working in a sexual assault referral centre, the FNE for sexual offences is responsible for the forensic and therapeutic examination of victims of rape or sexual assault.

The centre provides support for all victims of sexual offences with the FNE working alongside a crisis worker, police officers,

ALTHOUGH MY ROLE IS CHALLENGING, I AM PRIVILEGED TO HELP AND SUPPORT VICTIMS

social workers and staff from other support agencies. My role is relatively new with probably about 20-30 nurses undertaking FNE work across the country.

A major part of my time is spent building therapeutic



Only 20-30 nurses are employed as forensic nurse examiners in England, says Emma Durmaz (above)

relationships with victims. Rape victims have had control taken away from them so it is important they make decisions about the examination and their treatment plan.

The first part of the examination involves taking an initial disclosure from the police officer or the crisis worker, in the

case of a victim self-referring. The examination is explained to the victim to ensure he or she understands the process and any statement I may have to make to the police or in court. I also discuss consent for DVD evidence or photography.

The forensic examination is a top to toe examination. We may

NOTICE BOARD

Facilitation training Primary Care Commissioning will be running a level one facilitation skills workshop on September 11 in Manchester and level two workshops on November 4 in Manchester to help improve skills and confidence. A further session on influencing skills will be held in Leeds on December 10. tinyurl.com/PCC-programme



dsdc
Dementia Services
Development Centre

Dementia The Dementia Services Centre will host a one day interactive dementia awareness workshop on September 10 at 48 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham. The day is suitable for anyone who comes into contact with people with dementia. Workshop themes include the effect of dementia on families and friends;

confident and clear communication; and support for people with dementia. tinyurl.com/DSCawarenessday

Research NHS Wales will hold a free conference on community nursing research in Wales on November 5 at the SWALEC stadium in Cardiff. The conference is titled Small improvements make the biggest difference, and abstracts are being sought from those who want to describe their research-based approaches to improving services for community patients. There will be specific sessions for new presenters. The conference is open to all nurses, health visitors and midwives working in out-of-hospital environments. The deadline for submission of abstracts is August 15. For more information on the event, visit tinyurl.com/CNRconference

Requirements for the role

To become a forensic nurse you will need to have:

- ▶ Attention to detail.
- ▶ Excellent clinical examination skills.
- ▶ Knowledge of forensic medicine.
- ▶ Good interpersonal skills.
- ▶ Ability to understand the psychology of rape and how this applies to the individual.
- ▶ Knowledge of the Sexual Offences Act 2003

collect hair, nails, nail scrapings, make a body map and swab any injuries or areas where the victim indicates the perpetrator may have touched. We will also examine the external and internal genitalia. Prepubertal children undergo an external examination of the genitalia. Clothing and underwear may also be submitted as evidence for forensic analysis.

The therapeutic aspect of the examination includes risk assessment for self harm, any safeguarding concerns or child sexual exploitation indicators. The FNE will also administer emergency contraception, HIV prophylaxis and start an accelerated course of hepatitis B vaccine.

My job is challenging and I am privileged to help and support victims. I care passionately

about victims of rape and sexual assault. It frustrates me that their journey through the criminal justice system can be lengthy before reaching closure.

The SARC self referral service means that people can still access therapeutic and emotional support without necessarily having to report an incident to the police.

Following the examination, the SARC team will discuss the type of support most appropriate for the victim. This may involve counselling or more practical support from an independent sexual violence adviser, or follow up with sexual health services or mental health services.

My next challenge is to complete the research I am undertaking towards an MPhil/PhD **NS**

Emma Durmaz, is sexual health examiner at the Glade Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Worcester

RESOURCES

RCN nursing in criminal justice services forum tinyurl.com/RCNCJF

UK Association of Forensic Nurses www.ukafn.org

International Association of Forensic Nurses www.forensicnurses.org

On the move



Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust chief nurse **Adrian Childs** has been appointed deputy chief executive. He will continue in his role as chief nurse and executive director of quality.

Professor Childs trained as a general and mental health nurse.



Suzanne Rankin has been appointed chief executive at Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in Surrey, where she is currently chief nurse. Ms Rankin spent her early nursing career in the Royal Navy before becoming the first Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Officer to be selected for the Advanced Command and Staff Course.



The NHS Litigation Authority director of safety, learning and people, **Suzette Woodward** has been appointed campaign director for the health secretary's Sign up for Safety campaign. Dr Woodward has more than 30 years' experience in the NHS as a paediatric intensive care nurse then specialising in patient safety. Last year, she was named one of the top 50 inspirational women in the NHS.



Lorna Wilkinson has been appointed the new director of nursing for Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust. Ms Wilkinson had previously been deputy director of nursing before leaving the Salisbury trust in 2012 to become deputy director of nursing and head of patient safety at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

Study days The Epidermolysis Bullosa nursing team at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and St John's Institute of Dermatology will hold a study session on October 16/17 about the condition. Topics to be covered on the first day include wound care, nutrition, occupational therapy and end of life care, while the second day will cover more advanced themes. Each day may be booked separately or together. To book email educationadmindermatology@gstt.nhs.uk

Community nursing The Queen's Nursing Institute will be holding its annual conference on September 29 at the Royal Garden Hotel, London. The keynote speaker at the conference called Power of community nurses:

partnership, passion and practice, will be NHS England chief executive Simon Stevens. Other speakers include chief nursing officers Jane Cummings and Viv Bennett, Care Quality Commission deputy chief inspector of hospitals Ellen Armistead and Department of Health professional officer for school and community nursing Wendy Nicholson. www.qni.org.uk/news_events/conference_2014

Defence nursing A new RCN Defence Network for nurses and healthcare assistants from Northern Ireland who serve in the armed forces has been set up. The network will be a forum for sharing research, innovative practice and professional support. It is open to nurses, doctors, allied health professionals and support staff. www.rcn.org.uk/aboutus/northernireland