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&

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Developing the nurse role in pediatric forensic examinations across the UK

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The role of the nurse as a Pediatric Sexual Assault Examiner [SANE] has been established in the USA for many years. However, in the UK, this role has traditionally been carried out by doctors (Pediatricians and Forensic Medical Examiners -FMEs). Pediatricians are a limited resource, already overloaded with their general pediatric work and often unwilling to work in the high-profile arena of Child Sexual Abuse [CSA]. Forensic nurses are already used widely and successfully across the UK to examine adult complainants of rape. The training requirements to enable nurses to provide a reliable, high quality pediatric forensic service are discussed for areas of the UK, where pediatricians are unable or unwilling to perform the role.

Biography

Lucy Love is an Associate Medical Director for Mountain Healthcare, a major provider of forensic medical services and SARCs (Sexual Assault Referral Centers) for complainants of sexual assault in the UK. She has been a Sexual Offences Examiner for 20 years, including the evaluation of child sexual abuse and regularly appears in court as an expert witness. She is a recognized trainer of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and Pediatric Medical Examiners in the UK. She also works in the NHS as a Psychosexual Therapist.

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