

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FORENSIC PHYSICIAN

At the police station custody suite:

1

Apply universal healthcare values in relation to:



- Fitness to be detained in custody
- Fitness for transfer to court, prison or another police station
- Fitness to be interviewed by police
- Fitness to be charged with an offence
- Fitness to be released
- Substance abuse, mental health problems, and/or physical and other medical conditions
- Assessing and documenting injuries
- Assessing those arrested for road traffic or other transport offences

Developing appropriate care plans (e.g. prescribing medication)

Treating or referring to other centres (e.g. Emergency Departments)

Liaising with teams for child and adult safeguarding, and drugs, alcohol and mental health diversion

Communicating clearly to custody officers relevant decisions about the detainee's management



2

Examine complainants or police officers



- Take history, and document injuries
- Take appropriate evidential samples (e.g. blood samples, intimate swabs)
- Assess complainants of alleged police assault
- Assess injured police officers
- Examine those exposed to methods of restraint (e.g. Taser, irritant sprays, batons, police dog)

Away from the police station:

1

Write statements for court

At police station, at home or at other workplace



2

Examine victims of alleged sexual assault

At a Sexual Assault Referral Centre or in hospital

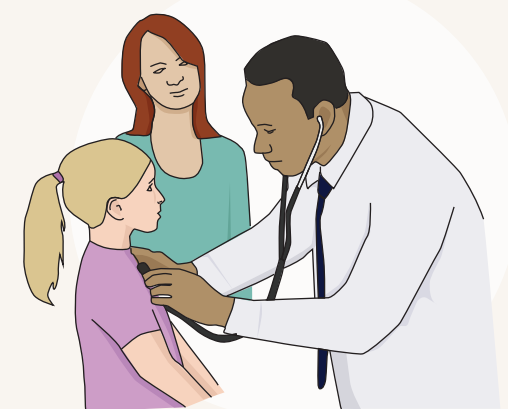
- Assess
- Take samples
- Arrange treatment and further management



3

Jointly examine children and young people

Often with paediatricians – in connection with safeguarding, or child abuse issues



4

Give evidence in courts and tribunals

As a professional or expert witness

- Magistrates Courts
- Crown Courts
- Coroner's Courts
- Professional Disciplinary Tribunals

