

# Forensic Nursing as An Overview of Growing Profession

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** The International Association of Forensic Nurses is an organization for developing forensic nurse as a specialist. The organization pursues to advance the profession and its development through research agenda. Forensic nursing is an evolving specialty that focus on nursing practice at the legal interface of tending to victims and offenders, living and dead. The subspecialties of forensic nursing that deal with the mental health care of victims and offenders in the focus areas. Forensic nursing, like all forensic specialties, developed from a need in society for a medico-legal role.<sup>2</sup>

**Keywords:** Forensic, Nursing, Overview, Growing Profession

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## Associate nursing skills with forensic science to support victims of violence & trauma:

Currently MeToo movement and protruding sexual assault disclosures, these types of crimes are finally receiving the attention they deserve. According to a recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report, more than 36% of women have experienced contact sexual violence in their lifetime and 19% have experienced attempted or completed rape. A benefit of the increased media and cultural attention on sexual assault crimes is that in many areas reporting the crimes to receive forensic medical examinations by sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs). Many healthcare workers and nurses are familiar with SANEs but may not realize that forensic nursing is a much broader nursing specialty that includes caring for patients who've experienced all types of violence and trauma.<sup>3</sup>

**Forensic nursing scope and specialties:** Forensic nursing is that the application of nursing sciences to legal proceedings. It delivers treatment for trauma or death to victims and the criminals of abuse, violence, criminal

offenses, traumatic accidents, and events of nature” The application of forensic science, combined with clinical nursing practice as they're applied to public or legal proceedings. Scope of Forensic Nursing is that forensic nurses are working in hospitals and call at the community. Forensic nurses identify issue which will have a legal impact on society. They manuscript injuries and pull communities jointly to deal with issues like violence, sexual abuse, and wrong care. They always work with grief-stricken family when death comes without warning. Forensic nurses offer to disaster planning and its response. Forensic Nurses discuss with on legal cases, assisting attorneys to know the complicated medical terminology and the way care is provided to the community. Anywhere there's an injury, there's a task for the forensic nurse.<sup>3</sup>

**Employment settings:** Forensic nurses can work in various surroundings, such as child advocacy centers, family justice centers, hospitals, community-based clinics, correctional facilities, and medical examiner or coroner offices. The patient populations they assist may include patients who have experienced child physical or sexual abuse, sexual assault, child neglect, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, or unexpected deaths etc.<sup>4</sup>

**Educational options:** To become a forensic nurse, it should be complete specific educational necessities and obtain the essential certifications.

**These are involving the following steps:** Forensic nurses start their careers by obtaining a nursing degree. Future nurses can choose to pursue: An Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) – typically a 2-year program, A Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) – generally a 4-year program Upon completion of the nursing program, graduates must pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) to receive their nursing license and start practicing as registered nurses (RNs).<sup>3</sup>

**Forensic Nursing Certificate Programs:** After becoming an RN, aspiring forensic nurses essential to complete a specialized forensic nursing program. Several educational institutions offer certificate programs in forensic nursing, which can be completed online or offline mode. These programs include various topics, such as forensic nursing history, role and responsibilities, crime scene investigation, and evidence collection techniques. For those looking to pursue an advanced career within forensic nursing, obtaining a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) focusing on forensic nursing or a related field is highly beneficial. These advanced degree programs delve deeper into the information and skills required in forensic nursing, making individuals for leadership and specialized roles. Advanced nursing degrees in forensic nursing allow nurses to integrate their knowledge with legal and forensic sciences in order to deliver specialized care to victims and their families. Master's and doctoral programs in forensic nursing provide nurses with the skills essential to provide expert testimony, collect forensic evidence, and consult with law application and legal teams.<sup>5</sup>

**Forensic nursing subspecialties:** Forensic nursing is an emerging sub-specialty in India from the possible to refresh the medico-legal system. Currently forensic nurses can specialize in any of these areas: sexual assault, interpersonal violence, intimate partner violence, child abuse and neglect, elder abuse and neglect, human trafficking, death investigation, incarceration, refugees with torture victimization history, mass and natural disasters.<sup>6</sup>

**Key concepts of forensic nursing:** The term "forensic nursing" was officially coined in 1992, during the first national convention St. Paul, Minnesota when a small group of about 70 nurses met at its first national convention for sexual assault nurses that led to the founding of the International Association of Forensic Nurses. Virginia Lynch from the USA is considered as a pioneer of forensic nursing. In 1995, the American Nursing Association (ANA) recognised it as a specialty. The International Association of Forensic Nurses was formulated soon after the convention. American Nurses Association (ANA) officially accepted Forensic

Nursing as a specialty in the year 1995.<sup>7</sup>

Lawful nursing is vital for interpreting healthcare laws and safeguarding patient care complies. Forensic nurses bridge the gap between patient care and legal expertise, playing a crucial role in legal proceedings. Litigation can drive improvements in nursing home standards, acting as both a corrective mechanism and a deterrent. For the patient safety and care professional accountability is essential for ethical and legal practice. Effort between legal and medical professionals are necessary for developing patient care.<sup>8</sup>

**Care setting of forensic nursing:** For the patient who are victims, suspects, and perpetrators of trauma are required specially designed care.

The "Forensic Nurse" is proposed as a new term to label the role of the nurse who is qualified by licensure and education as a specialist in forensic nursing. The forensic nurse specialist can provide comprehensive, medicolegal care to patients receiving treatment for trauma. The purpose of this review paper is to highlight the necessity and importance of the forensic nurse and label the multifaceted responsibilities of the role as a transformational leader in health care today. It is vital that health care systems employ forensic nurse hospitalists to deliver expert patient care, offer specialized consultation and collaboration, and implement systemwide policy and educational initiatives to best meet the needs of patients who have experienced intentional or unintentional trauma.<sup>9</sup>

### Conclusions

The forensic nurse acts in all phases of disasters with the affected people, families and communities, under an interdisciplinary perspective. The development of competencies aimed at the practice of Forensic Nursing in disasters should be incorporated into the training strategies of these professionals, in order to obtain better response standards.<sup>10</sup>

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