

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER  
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY  
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 5502**

**VERSION: 2**

**SUBJECT/TITLE: ADM 52.0: SPECIMENS FROM ALLEGED VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**POLICY:** Specimens to be used for evidence of sexual assault/abuse shall be referred to law enforcement officers with appropriate chain of custody procedures and precautions in place. They should not be sent to the OVMC clinical laboratory.

**PURPOSE:** Laboratory does not process specimens obtained to be used as evidence from patients who are alleged victims of Sexual Assault/Abuse. Specimens from alleged victims of sexual assault/abuse go:

- To OVMC Laboratory for Clinical Care Information.
- To Law Enforcement Officers for evidence in Medical Legal proceedings.

**DEPARTMENTS: PATHOLOGY**

**DEFINITIONS:**

**PROCEDURE:** Specimens may be obtained from victims of alleged sexual assault/abuse to be used as evidence in legal proceedings. To assure that strict “chain of custody” requirements for such evidence are met, the specimens are to be handed over to law enforcement officers by the clinicians who obtain them. The chain of custody requirements are not met when specimens are sent to the OVMC clinical laboratory. It is assumed that the purpose of sending specimens to the OVMC clinical laboratory is to obtain information to aid in the clinical care of patients. The laboratory should not undertake analysis that will not aid in patient care. In order to help assure that the desired goal of obtaining either evidence or clinical information is met, clinicians should clearly direct specimens either to law enforcement (for legal evidence with maintenance of chain of custody) or to the laboratory (for clinical patient care services purposes).

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9/12/12	Placed in PPM System	S. Spike	52.0

"No changes in procedure content, new version was created to satisfy <b>CAP requirement TLC.11485 - New Director Procedure Approval</b> "	
References:	
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