

# Additional Resources for Conducting Forensic Physical Evaluations

## Trauma Informed Approach

Elisseou S, Puranam S, Nandi M. A Novel, Trauma-Informed Physical Examination Curriculum for First-Year Medical Students. MedEdPORTAL [Internet]. 2019 Jan 25 [cited 2022 Jun 6];15:10799. Available from:

[https://www.mededportal.org/doi/full/10.15766/mep\\_2374-8265.10799](https://www.mededportal.org/doi/full/10.15766/mep_2374-8265.10799)

*Open-access online curriculum and resources on fundamentals of trauma informed physical exam*

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach. Rockville, MD; 2014.

*One of the earliest seminal documents that defined and described trauma informed approach in healthcare*

## Informed Consent

PHR video. How to Obtain Meaningful Informed Consent [Internet]. Youtube. 2019 [cited 2022 Jun 6]. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLeoQHZuWNC>

*Short animated overview from Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) (5 minutes)*

PHRvideo. What is Informed Consent? [Internet]. Youtube. 2019 [cited 2022 Jun 6].

Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p\\_Ql6agsZVM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_Ql6agsZVM)

*Short animated video (2 minutes)*

## Forensic Physical Examination

Istanbul Protocol:

Chapter 5C Physical Exam. In: Istanbul Protocol Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations. New York & Geneva; 2004 [cited 2022 Jun 6].

Chapter 5D Examination and evaluation following specific forms of torture. In: Istanbul Protocol Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Office

Jenny Wen, Anita Mathews, and Eleanor Emery contributed to this document. Updated August 2022. Appears in Kivlahan C., Hexom B., Shin J., Wen J., Caruso J., Maju M., Mathews A., & Emery E. (2022). Module 4: Introduction to the Forensic Physical Evaluation. In Emery E., DeFries T. (2022). Asylum Medicine Training Initiative: Asylum Medicine Introductory Curriculum. Panopto.

<https://pro.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?tid=87da5c8b-165c-4f20-8c91-aec50152d6b2>.

of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations. New York & Geneva; 2004 [cited 2022 Jun 6].

Annex III. Anatomical drawings for the documentation of torture and ill-treatment. In: Istanbul Protocol Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations. New York & Geneva; 2004 [cited 2022 Jun 6].

*Body diagram templates for recording forensic physical exam findings*

Society of Asylum Medicine. Conducting forensic evaluations [webpage]. Available from: <https://asylummedicine.com/conducting-forensic-evaluations>  
*Contains many links to practical resources including peer-reviewed publications, guidelines, body diagrams, handouts.*

Danielsen L, Rasmussen OV. Dermatological findings after alleged torture. *Torture*. 2006;16(2).  
*Contains broad range of photographs of torture-related physical findings*

Deps PD, Aborghetti HP, Zambon TL, Costa VC, dos Santos JD, Collin SM, et al. Assessing signs of torture: A review of clinical forensic dermatology. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2021;1–6.

Forrest DM. Examination for the late physical after effects of torture. *J Clin Forensic Med*. 1999 [cited 2022 Jun 6];6(1):4–13. Available from: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15335503/>

Zeidan A, Ferdowsian H. Physical Evaluation of Asylum Seekers. In: McKenzie K, editor. *Asylum Medicine* [Internet]. Springer, Cham; 2022 [cited 2022 Jun 6]. p. 31–46. Available from: [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-81580-6\\_3](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-81580-6_3)

## Factors Affecting Wound Healing

Li J, Chen J, Kirsner R. Pathophysiology of acute wound healing. *Clin Dermatol*. 2007;25(1):9–18.

Reinke JM, Sorg H. Wound repair and regeneration. *Eur Surg Res*. 2012;49(1):35–43.  
*A review of wound healing pathophysiology*

## Interpreting Physical Examination Findings

Interpretation of findings. In: Istanbul Protocol Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or

Punishment [PUBLICATION PENDING]. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations. New York & Geneva; [Cited 2022 Jun 6].

## Forensic Photography

PHRvideo. What is Forensic Photography? [Internet]. Youtube. 2019 [cited 2022 Jun 6]. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4e3yr3duZzI>  
*Short animated video from Physicians for Human Rights (9 minutes)*

## Remote Forensic Physical Evaluations

PHRvideo. Best Practices for Remote Physical Forensic Evaluations [Internet]. Youtube. 2020 [cited 2022 Jun 6]. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vASB2RmXJHc>  
*Recorded Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) webinar featuring speakers Dr. Ranit Mishori and Dr. Deborah Ottenheimer (48 minutes)*

## Other Resources and Networks

*Many programs that offer forensic medical evaluations offer connections for clients to ongoing care/wraparound services. Contact your local program to see if these services are available.*

Physicians for Human Rights: Guides and protocols for clinicians  
<https://phr.org/issues/asylum-and-persecution/asylum-network-resources-linked/>  
*Contains resources for advocacy and for evaluators. Includes factsheets, templates, and sample affidavits.*

Physicians for Human Rights: Resource search engine  
[https://phr.org/our-work/resources/?\\_focus\\_areas\\_dd=asylum&\\_resource\\_type\\_dd=webinar](https://phr.org/our-work/resources/?_focus_areas_dd=asylum&_resource_type_dd=webinar)  
*Wide variety of webinars, fact sheets, and reports. Searchable by topic, country, media type.*

Society of Refugee Health Providers  
<https://refugeesociety.org/helpful-resources/>  
*US- and Canada-based non-profit association. The resource page contains many useful links, guidelines, and programs for US and Canada refugees, and some internationally.*

Center for Victims of Torture  
<https://healtorture.org/content/medical>

# ASYLUM MEDICINE TRAINING INITIATIVE

*A network of medical, legal, mental health services and resources for survivors of torture in the United States*

Atlas of Torture

<https://atlas-of-torture.org/en/page/85hn3png03b>

*Information and data-sharing platform among international community of anti-torture actors and projects, focused mainly in Europe. It is a joint project of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights (BIM) in Vienna, Austria and Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems (HURIDOCS)*

Vinson J, Majidi A, George M. Cultural Humility in Trauma Informed Care. In: Gerber M, editor. Trauma-Informed Healthcare Approaches. Springer International Publishing; 2019.

*Chapter on providing trauma-informed care and care delivery for culturally and linguistically diverse patients, with special emphasis on refugees and asylum seekers*

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<https://pro.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?tid=87da5c8b-165c-4f20-8c91-aec50152d6b2>.