

Improving Quality of Service, Delivery and Forensic Medicine Education

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The Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology provides a continuous medico-legal service to seven police areas in suburbs of Colombo which commenced in the 1950s. Service quality was improved by designing and implementing new protocols for chain of custody and age estimation. Victim friendly practice was introduced which includes establishing a forensic nursing unit and follow-up care of victims of sexual assault. These improved practices were amalgamated to the undergraduate and postgraduate Forensic Medicine education within the new curricula. Highlights include debates, hands-on simulated crime scenes and communication skills training at the two-week clinical appointment and an end of teaching module mock trial.