

STEP 4:

The Tools

The guide includes two sets of tools:

- I. The facility checklist:** The facility checklist provides data on the infrastructure of the health care facilities where rape survivors are managed and where medico-legal / forensic examinations take place. The tool can be used to collect data on the equipment, medication and tests that are available in the facility. The infrastructure of a health care facility only provides some information about the quality of care that patients receive. The other key influence on the nature of care that patients receive is the providers themselves.
- II. Health care provider questionnaire:** This is a standardised questionnaire designed to be used in face-to-face interviews with health care providers who manage the care of rape survivors. The questionnaire has items that capture basic demographic information on the providers, details of what services they provide, protocols or clinical management guidelines used, training received, knowledge and attitudes, their relationship with other sectors and their experiences in court.

Copies of the tools are provided in [Appendix A](#). All items in these tools may not be suitable to your context. The research team must therefore review the tools and adapt them accordingly.

Neither of these tools can provide reliable information on how long a patient waits to be seen by a health care provider or what happens to the patient after the health care provider has completed the examination. Both these aspects of services may influence the patient's experience of the care they receive at the health facility. If it is feasible and possible to conduct additional research in a sensitive manner, you could consider interviewing patients about their experiences, or observing the services using a standardised observation tool. Both require substantial fieldwork commitments as fieldworkers would have to observe the health facility 24 hours a day, albeit possibly in randomly selected blocks of time. There are also important ethical issues involved with interviewing rape survivors at the health care facility after rape. These include the appropriateness of approaching a rape survivor for an interview when they may be traumatised. There is also the risk of breach of confidentiality. These would have to be thoughtfully addressed.

STEP 5:

Data Management and Analysis

Notes on how items in the research tools may be analysed are provided in [Appendix B](#). It is important that a researcher with experience in conducting quantitative research and statistical analysis or a statistician is involved in the research process and is available to assist with data management and analysis.

STEP 6:

Report Writing and Dissemination

There are different ways in which findings can be reported on and disseminated. You may want to do a comprehensive report to provide feedback on your findings to the Department of Health. You may want to develop a short policy brief that highlights key findings from the study. Writing an article for publication in a peer reviewed journal is another option. In the South African project, we developed a report of the findings and published a journal article. The journal article is available online at: http://www.scielo.org/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0042-96862005000700009&lng=en&nrm=iso&tlng=en