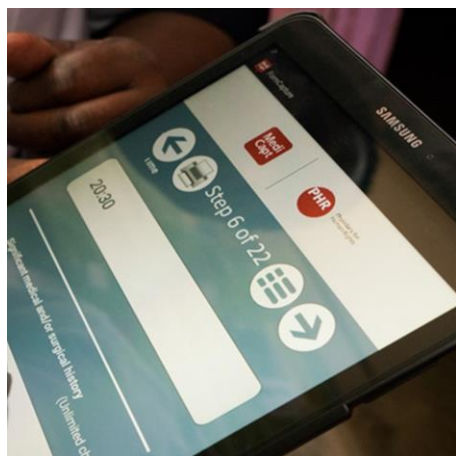


Introduction

Since its founding in 1986, PHR has strived to develop innovative tools that facilitate the way medical, law enforcement, and legal professionals carry out their work while prioritizing the protection of survivors and witnesses. Examples of such innovations include PHR's [Child Interviewing and Recording Kit \(CIRK\)](#) and the [Video and Voice Modification system \(ViVoMo\)](#) which are designed to benefit minors during court proceedings while mitigating security vulnerabilities and the many risks associated with re-traumatization. This edition will spotlight PHR's innovative mobile application, MediCapt, and the key partners that have made it possible.

MediCapt: PHR's Innovative Tool to Capture Evidence of SGBV



MediCapt being tested by clinicians on a tablet.



Participants in a PHR training familiarize themselves with MediCapt hardware and software.

[MediCapt](#) is a mobile application designed to help clinicians more effectively collect, document, and securely store forensic medical evidence of sexual violence. In 2014, PHR, along with its partners in Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo – health care providers, law enforcement, and legal professionals – began a co-design process to develop the application. This process engaged the end-users at every stage of the technology's development to ensure that their needs were prioritized. The post-rape care form nationally adopted by the Kenyan Ministry of Health is a medical-legal certificate that clinicians use to document forensic medical evidence of sexual violence. By digitizing the form, MediCapt can address problems caused by poor legibility, lack of storage, incomplete forms, and difficulty transmitting documentation from the clinic to other sectors, while preserving data security and the chain of custody. MediCapt ensures comprehensive documentation through a feature that only allows a form to be submitted once all the required fields have been completed. Additionally, data collected by the application remains private and all records are protected from theft, loss, and destruction.

PHR used data and feedback provided by end-users and other stakeholders to inform choices about how to develop, update, and improve MediCapt. PHR integrated additional features in the application based on users' requests, such as advanced security features limiting unauthorized access, the capability of forensic photography, electronic signatures, body pictograms, use of addenda to add information, and the ability to use the application in areas with little or no internet connectivity.

The application includes sophisticated encryption, secure printing via Bluetooth to avoid routing the data through the internet (which can compromise the chain of custody and patient confidentiality), and skip-logic for user efficiency, which changes the questions that appear based on previous answers (for example, questions on female genitals do not appear if the clinician indicates that the survivor is male). MediCapt also utilizes cloud data storage, which means the evidence and documentation are securely preserved – a significant improvement over the paper form.

Piloting MediCapt at Rift Valley Provincial General Hospital



The second cohort of MediCapt end-users from Rift Valley Provincial General Hospital



L to R: PHR's Suzanne Kidenda and Naitore Nyamu hand over MediCapt equipment to RVPGH's Medical Superintendent, Dr. Aisha Maina.

Following a successful pilot at Naivasha County Referral Hospital in 2018, PHR conducted the second pilot of MediCapt in Kenya at the Rift Valley Provincial General Hospital (RVPGH) in Nakuru with the support of the Canadian High Commission in Kenya through the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, training for this latest cohort was initially conducted remotely in December 2020, with a second in-person session held in January 2021. The virtual session covered the theoretical aspects of MediCapt, offering an introduction to the application. The in-person session was more practical and included simulated clinician-patient interactions with the help of standardized patients.

After a three week-long testing period, the RVPGH end-users officially started using the application with patients on March 1, 2021. During the testing period, PHR collected feedback from clinicians on their experiences using MediCapt and solicited recommendations for further development of the application. This data was collected using feedback forms and interactive field-testing sessions with the end-users and the technical support team at the hospital.

Over the course of the pilot, users will continue to document their experiences after completing each forensic exam using MediCapt with patients. Data collected using MediCapt will be reviewed on a weekly basis by a forensic expert and clinicians will be given feedback on the quality of their forensic documentation.

PHR would like to extend its gratitude to the management and staff at RVPGH and the Canadian High Commission for making it possible to pilot MediCapt at a second facility in Kenya.

Upcoming Events

- April 2021: [48th KMA Annual Scientific Conference & AGM](#)
- May 16th, 2021: PHR Annual Gala (Virtual)
- June 2021: [RightsCon](#) (Free registration for virtual conference)

Resources

- [PHR Blog: "Celebrating Women in Health and Human Rights"](#)
- [PHR Fact Sheet: "The Human Rights Implications of Global COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution"](#)
- [Harvard Business Review Article: "The Burnout Crisis"](#) (Limited viewing access)
- [The WHO's Guidelines: "Clinical Management of Rape and Intimate Partner Violence Survivors"](#)

Get Involved

Do you wish to share your experience and reflections working with survivors of sexual violence? Would you like to be featured in a profile or share events hosted by your institution or county network? Please write to Suzanne Kidenda at skidenda@phr.org.



Physicians for
Human Rights

For more than 30 years, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has used science and the uniquely credible voices of medical professionals to document and call attention to severe human rights violations around the world. PHR, which shared in the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for its work to end the scourge of landmines, uses its investigations and expertise to advocate for persecuted health workers and facilities under attack, prevent torture, document mass atrocities, and hold those who violate human rights accountable.