

CASE STUDY

Please review the case study below and answer the questions referencing your hospital's policy for handling forensic evidence. Schedule time to talk with your preceptor, mentor, or educator to review the answers and ask any questions you still may have about protocols for handling forensic evidence.

You are working the night shift, and the charge nurse informs you that a trauma patient is on their way to the OR. The case is booked as an exploratory laparotomy with foreign body retrieval. You meet the surgeon in the room as you are opening the case, and he informs you that the patient is a 19-year-old male with multiple gunshot wounds to the abdomen. He asks that you activate the massive transfusion protocol.

- How do you locate your hospital's policy for forensic specimen handling?
- What supplies will you need to have available to retrieve the bullets?
- Where will you obtain a copy of the chain-of-custody form?
- How will you communicate with security for the bullet retrieval?
- What other considerations will you think about as you prepare for this case?