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5 steps to rapid DNA implementation

Rapid DNA technology frees up the time and expertise of DNA analysts for more complex cases. The implementation of rapid DNA for confidently and accurately processing reference samples in the booking station can be broken down into digestible steps.



1. Validate it

Explore potential applications and technical limitations of the system by validating it for case reference testing in the lab. See SWGDAM guidelines for the most recent laboratory quality standards for DNA testing.



2. Open an "express lane"

Train investigators on proper collection techniques with speedy case processing that doesn't disrupt established reference sample batches.



3. Grow the partnership

With experience gained during validation, advise interested law enforcement agencies on technical challenges, potential applications, and other protocol considerations for developing their own rapid DNA program.



4. Run a pilot

Conduct a pilot of the processing of reference samples in the booking station by booking officers, studying system performance, workflow efficiency, and impact to criminal justice processes.



5. Scale up

Share data collected from the pilot with administrators and legislators to support the funding and implementation of a system-wide rapid DNA program.

Other considerations:

- Security and privacy
- IT system requirements
- Other applications (e.g., disaster victim identification and kinship testing)



