



Research article

Medicolegal service procedure (Visum ET Repertum) during the covid-19 pandemicHandar Subhandi Bakhtiar^{1*}, Muhammad Basri², Wahyu Nurdiansyah²¹. Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia². Politeknik STIA LAN Makassar, Makassar, Indonesia**ABSTRACT**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the crime rate, especially against the human body, has increased. For the sake of law enforcement, one of the services needed to obtain evidence is medicolegal services (visum et repertum). This study uses a qualitative approach, type of research is descriptive, namely research that describes information data based on facts obtained in the field. This study was conducted at the Bhayangkara Raden Said Sukanto Hospital, Jakarta. This study indicates that medicolegal service procedures have changed during the pandemic to adapt to the implementation of health protocols to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The procedure emphasizes arrangements related to the implementation of services with strict health protocol standards from both doctors and patients to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The application of medicolegal services (visum et repertum) from the aspect of service procedures during the pandemic changed procedure. Service procedures continue to follow the procedures before the pandemic through Standard Operating Procedures Number B/46-52/V-VIII/2017/VISUM regarding Standard Operating Procedures, but during the current pandemic, service procedures adjust to the implementation of health protocols to prevent transmission of covid-19 during the pandemic with the issuance of Standard Operating Procedures through letter Number B/01/XI/2020 concerning Medicolegal Examinations in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The procedure emphasizes arrangements related to the implementation of services with strict health protocol standards from both doctors and patients to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

Keywords: Medicolegal Service, Procedure, Visum ET Repertum, Covid-19 Pandemic

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INTRODUCTION

The state is the only foundation and hope for the community during the Covid-19 pandemic ⁽¹⁾. The beginning of 2020 became the starting point for the development of the virus that was originally a common type of virus to pandemic, Corona Virus Diseases 2019 or Covid-19 as one of the diseases caused by the corona virus, where the respiratory tract is the target of an attack. The city of Wuhan is thought to be the first sighting of this virus ⁽²⁾. SARS-Cov-2 is not a new type of virus but a virus that circulates and changes shape to a new genetic shape, the scientific explanation states that the virus is one type, only the clothes have changed. The corona virus is genetically related to the MERS and SARS viruses, hence the name SARS-Cov-2 ⁽³⁾.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) for the first time announced Covid-19 as a global pandemic that has reached more than 121,000 infections worldwide ⁽⁴⁾. Not only has an impact on the health aspect, but Covid-19 has also caused

significant material losses, especially in the weakened socio-cultural and world economic aspects ⁽⁵⁾.

The existence of a new disease outbreak then spread so that it was declared a pandemic by WHO and caused fear and anxiety among the general public. This fear arises from a lack of public understanding. This ubiquitous fear then creates discrimination and the emergence of inappropriate boundaries in society ⁽⁶⁾.

The outbreak of Covid-19 also has an impact on various sectors, ranging from the economy, tourism, transportation, politics to public services, including health ⁽⁷⁾. As the disease progresses rapidly, various problems begin to emerge. In the health sector, the increase in the number of patients resulted in many hospitals being full, so hospitals had to refuse and select patients based on their priority conditions and diseases. The government is aware of the increasing number of patients in hospitals and is trying to slow down the acceleration of the spread of Covid-19 by implementing a Large-

Scale Social Restriction Policy. The problem that develops is not only how the availability of hospital resources causes limitations in providing services, but also how hospitals prepare mentally for health workers⁽⁸⁾. In addition, health workers must also prepare for how the public's fear of Covid-19 causes a reluctance to get medical assistance for their problems in hospitals⁽⁹⁾.

For this reason, every activity and effort undertaken to improve public health is based on non-discriminatory, participatory, protective, and sustainable principles which are very important for the formation of Indonesian human resources, strengthening resilience, resilience, state competitiveness, and national development.⁽¹⁰⁾ Efforts to improve health status which were originally in the form of disease healing efforts, then gradually developed into integrated public health efforts involving the wider community, including promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative efforts that are comprehensively integrated and sustainable⁽¹¹⁾. As the goal of state formation, individuals and communities have the right to ensure security, security of life, and property from natural threats and enemies that come from outside the community. The state gains authority and legitimacy from the community to maintain harmony, protect personal and social rights, and create shared happiness (*bonum comune*).

Crime actions do not depend on the situation or condition of the community, sometimes crime occurs amid society experiencing abnormal conditions or circumstances as it is now amid a pandemic. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the police, the crime rate rose to 3177 cases or 16% and in particular, the number of violence against women rose to 14,719 cases or 75% and violence against children at 5697 cases⁽¹²⁾. From this data, it is illustrated that amid the current pandemic the crime rate is increasing and law enforcement efforts against criminals are highly expected by victims of criminal acts⁽¹³⁾. One of the efforts in the law enforcement process against actions related to a person's body is carried out by examining the body or *visum ET repertum*, this examination is carried out to find out and become evidence in proving acts of violence or crimes related to a person's body⁽¹⁴⁾. In practice this examination must be carried out by a doctor with a post-mortem order, during the current pandemic the position of the victim is very wide due to having to examine with health protocols during the pandemic, most victims are afraid to go to a hospital or health service for fear of contracting the virus. Covid-19, in addition, there is a necessity for every patient to check their status in terms of being positive or not positive for the virus before the post-mortem examination is carried out by charging the patient, making it difficult for the victim to pay the examination fee, especially amid a bad economy. For this reason, the study will

comprehensively examine the application of medicolegal services (*visum ET repertum*).

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is called *verstehen* (deep understanding) because it questions the meaning of an object deeply and thoroughly⁽¹⁵⁾. This type of research is descriptive, namely research that describes information data based on facts (facts) obtained in the field. This research was conducted at Bhayangkara Raden Said Sukanto Hospital, Jakarta. The data obtained in further research is described in accordance with the subject matter which is then analyzed on the data using qualitative data analysis and then presented descriptively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought drastic changes in daily life, as well as in health services to the community which is very strict on the implementation of health protocols such as wearing masks, washing hands with soap and running water, maintaining distance, staying away from crowds, and limiting mobilization and interactions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus⁽¹⁶⁾. Medicolegal services (*visum et repertum*) are generally divided into 2 types, namely *visum* for living people and *visum* for dead people. The product of the inspection is in the form of a report on the results of the examination, which is called *visum et repertum*.

In the *Visum et repertum*, it will be explained about the type of examination requested by the investigator and carried out by the doctor. For products resulting from examinations of living people in the form of Psychiatry, Psychologists, Adult Domestic Violence, Child Domestic Violence, Adult Non-Domestic Violence, Non-Child Domestic Violence, Traffic Accident, Persecution, Adult Physical Violence, gunshot wounds, age checks, and drug urine tests. Meanwhile, for victims who died in the form of examinations including external examination of the corpse, examination of the body (autopsy), and grave digging. All forms of examination will later be stated in the *Visum et repertum* report regarding the examinations that have been carried out. To see the number of medicolegal services (*visum et repertum*) in 2019, it is described in the following table.

Table 1. Number of services in 2019 (before the pandemic)

Type of Service	Number of Service
Psychiatry	43
Psychologist	57
Traffic accident	129
Gunshot wounds	6
Physical abuse	249
Domestic Violence	149
Non Domestic Violence	720
Total	1353

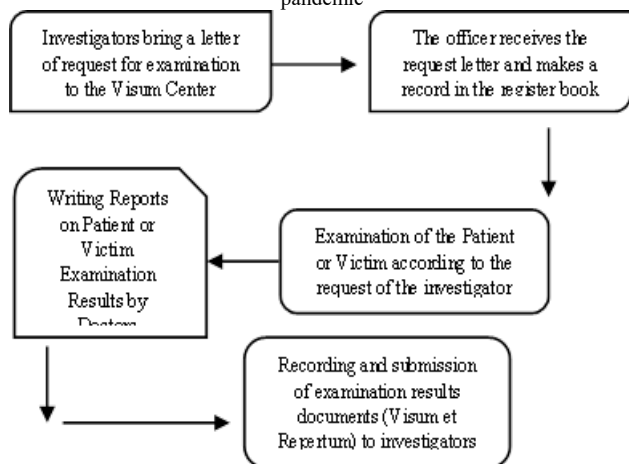
The number of medicolegal services (*visum et repertum*) in 2020 is described in the following table:

Table 2. Number of services in 2020 (during the pandemic)

Type of Service	Number of Service
Psychiatry	77
Psychologist	273
Traffic accident	80
Gunshot wounds	21
Physical abuse	31
Domestic violence	47
Non Domestic Violence	270
Adult Domestic Violence	58
Child Domestic Violence	18
Non-Adult Domestic Violence	223
Non-Child Domestic Violence	271
Torture	151
Adult Physical Violence	232
Age check	3
Total	1755

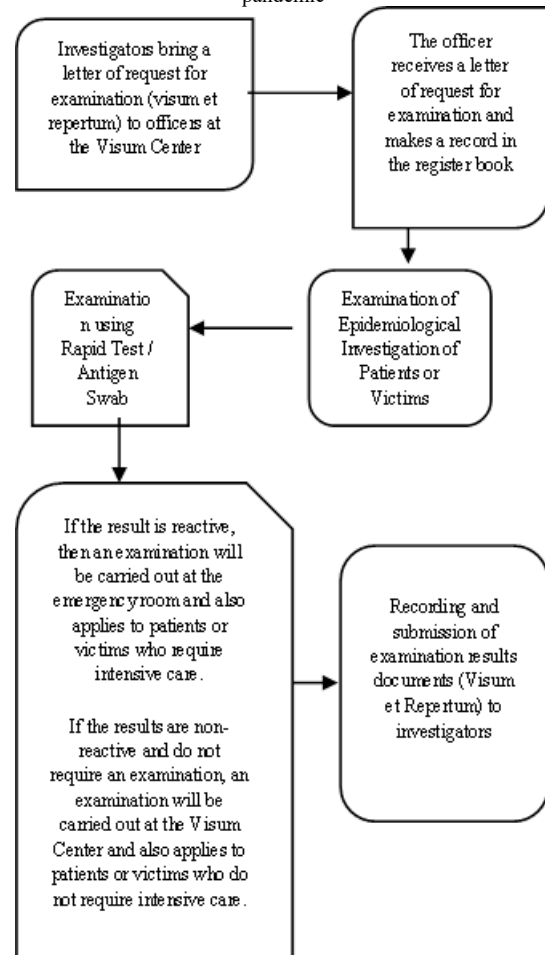
In providing medicolegal services, it is in the field of Police Medical Services. In the current pandemic era, demands for the maximum performance of police medicine, especially in medicolegal services. Medicolegal services (visum ET repertum) during the current pandemic will of course have different patterns of medicolegal procedures (visum ET repertum) before the pandemic. From the procedural aspect of having Standard Operating Procedures which originally regulated services related to before the pandemic, changes have been made by issuing Standard Operating Procedures No. B/01/XI/2020 concerning Medicolegal Examination in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Basically, the previous Standard Operating Procedures remain in effect but are equipped with new Standard Operating Procedures with the addition of rules, especially health protocols on the implementation of the examination. In the current pandemic era, the examination flow remains the same but emphasizes and applies the 3M health protocol (using masks, washing hands, and physical distance), every patient who comes is carried out tracing to find out the patient's identity and condition. The implementation of medico-legal examinations during the current pandemic from the aspect of procedures has changed from before with the addition of the implementation of the 3M health protocol (using masks, washing hands, and physical distance). The service procedure flow before the pandemic can be described as follows:

Figure 1. Medicolegal service procedure (visum et repertum) before the pandemic



Source: Installation of Visum and Medicolegal Centers
 Meanwhile, the flow of service procedures during the pandemic can be described as follows:

Figure 2. Medicolegal service procedure (visum et repertum) during the pandemic



Source: Installation of Visum and Medicolegal Centers

This change in aspects of the procedure does not reduce medicolegal services (visum et repertum) to patients, but there are differences in the examination process for patients with indications of COVID-19 and patients who are not indicated for COVID-19.

Following the new standard operating procedure, the patient is separated from the examination process for patients who have the results of a reactive antigen rapid test/swab, then we examine the Emergency Room, but if the results of the rapid test/reactive antigen swab examination, the examination is carried out at the Emergency Room. Installation of Visum and Medicolegal/PPAT Centers (Integrated Women and Children Services). The procedure for patients who are reactive and non-reactive for COVID-19 can be illustrated that the implementation of a post-mortem examination for patients with an indication of COVID-19 is carried out at different locations, namely in the Emergency Room to minimize the spread of COVID-19, this also applies to patients who come with a wound condition that requires emergency treatment in the Emergency Room. For patients who are not indicated

for COVID-19, the examination will be carried out at the visum center; this also applies to patients who come with minor injuries.

The purpose of making a visum et repetum is for legal purposes. For this reason, if the patient or victim wishes to carry out a medico-legal examination (visum et repertum), the patient or victim must comply with administrative procedures, namely the patient or victim must have an official request letter from this investigator following Article 133 paragraph 2 of the Criminal Procedure Code which states that⁽¹⁷⁾:

"The request for expert information as referred to in paragraph (1) shall be made in writing which in the letter is explicitly stated for examination of wounds or examination of the body and or autopsy".

The procedure before a medico legal examination (visum et repertum) can be described that if the patient or victim is going to carry out an examination, they must first report to the police, in this case the investigator who later on the report will make an official request letter in the form of a request for examination to a doctor or hospital. However, it can also be a patient or victim who comes to the doctor or hospital without bringing a request for an official examination from the investigator, then the hospital continues to provide examinations to the patient and the results of the examination are written in full according to medical record standards, and the results of the examination are in the form of a letter (visum et repertum) will not be given to the patient or victim or family but only given to the investigator by showing a letter of request for examination.

In general, the differences in medico legal service procedures (visum et repertum) before the pandemic and during the pandemic can be described in the following table:

Table 3. Description of the differences in medico legal service procedures before the pandemic and during the pandemic

Indicator	Before the Pandemic	During the Pandemic
Regulations related to Standard Operating Procedures	Standard Operating Procedure Number B/46-52/V-VIII/2017/VISUM concerning Standard Operating Procedures for Examination	Standard Operational Procedure Number B/01/XI/2020 concerning Medicolegal Examination in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic
Examination related to Rapid Test / Swab antigen	Are not done	Should be done
Procedure Patient or victim according to condition	Patients or victims who require intensive care are carried out in the Emergency Room, while patients or victims who do not require intensive care at the Visum Center	Patients who are exposed and need intensive care are carried out in the Emergency Room, while patients or victims who are not exposed and do not require intensive care are carried out at the Visum Center
Request letter for examination from investigator	Still required	Still required

In the medicolegal examination (visum et repertum) there are also several obstacles, such as the limitations of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the early days of the pandemic,

coordination with other expert doctors or laboratories for 24-hour service, patients or victims who come to the hospital without bringing a letter of request for examination from the investigator, there is an investigator who urges the release of the results of the examination which is still in the stage of preparing a report due to coordination with other expert doctors and the laboratory which takes a relatively long time⁽¹⁸⁻¹⁹⁾.

CONCLUSION

The application of medico legal services (visum et repertum) from the aspect of service procedures during the pandemic changed procedure. Service procedures continue to follow the procedures before the pandemic through Standard Operating Procedures Number B/46-52/V-VIII/2017/VISUM regarding Standard Operating Procedures, but during the current pandemic, service procedures adjust to the implementation of health protocols to prevent transmission of covid-19 during the pandemic with the issuance of Standard Operating Procedures through letter Number B/01/XI/2020 concerning Medico legal Examinations in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The procedure emphasizes arrangements related to the implementation of services with strict health protocol standards from both doctors and patients to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest in this work.

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