

Payment Fact Sheet

PATIENT MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMINATION AND REPORTING OPTIONS

Patients who've experienced sexual assault have the right to a patient-centered, trauma-informed medical forensic examination, with the promotion of a victim-centered reporting process. Except in situations covered by mandatory reporting laws, patients, not healthcare providers, make decisions to report a sexual assault to law enforcement. Regardless of the patients reporting status, a medical forensic examination should be offered for FREE.

Medical Forensic Examination and Options for Reporting to Law Enforcement:

- Examination *with* filing a report to law enforcement
- Examination *without* filing a report to law enforcement
- Examination with a *delayed report* to law enforcement
- Examination with an *anonymous or restricted* report to law enforcement*

*Not every program and location offers anonymous or restricted reporting to law enforcement. Please see your state reporting guidelines.

Medical Forensic Examinations can include, but are not limited to[◇]:

- Medical screening and evaluation
- Written and verbal consent to complete the medical forensic examination
- Collection of information from the patient:
 - Demographic information
 - Medical and surgical history
 - Description of the sexual assault
 - Activities since the sexual assault
 - Recent consensual sexual activity
- Assessment for a potential drug/alcohol facilitated sexual assault
- Medical forensic physical examination:
 - Photographing and documenting findings
 - Collection of evidence using a sexual assault evidence collection kit
- Medical interventions and treatment (e.g., pregnancy and STI evaluation and care, lab, radiology, etc.)
- Discharge instructions, follow-up services, and referrals

[◇]Medical Forensic Examinations are unique to the patient based on their consent, decisions regarding care, and the resources that are available at the program, facility, or clinic. For more information and coordination with healthcare, please visit the [Payment Resources](#) webpage on SAFEta.org.

safeta.org/payment



REFERENCES:

- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office on Violence Against Women. (2013, April). A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations Adult/Adolescent (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: DOJ. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ovw/241903.pdf>
- National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice (2017). *National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach*. <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250384.pdf>

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