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When things don't go right: Sexual Assault Exam Billing and Payment- It's TIME for a Change!

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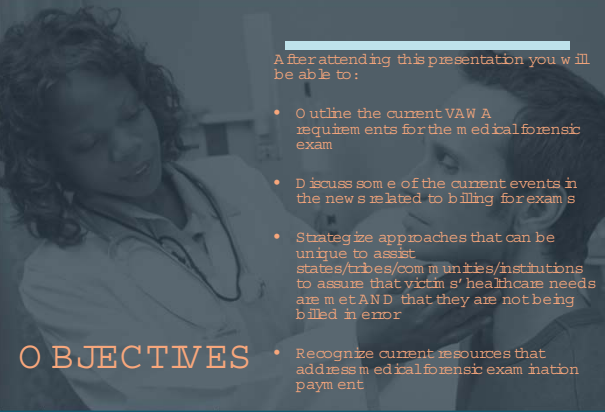
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WHY are you here?




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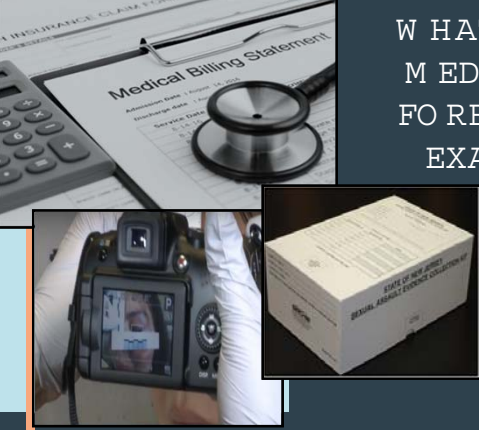
After attending this presentation you will be able to:

- Outline the current VAWA requirements for the medical forensic exam
- Discuss some of the current events in the news related to billing for exams
- Strategize approaches that can be unique to assist states/tribes/com m unities/institutions to assure that victim s' healthcare needs are met AND that they are not being billed in error
- Recognize current resources that address medical forensic examination payment


OBJECTIVES



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WHAT IS A MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAM ?




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VAWA definition of the Medical Forensic Exam

- Examination provided to a sexual assault victim
- By medical personnel trained to gather evidence of a sexual assault
- In a manner suitable for use in a court of law.

Minimum requirements for the exam include:
 Examination of physical trauma;
 Determination of penetration or force;
 Patient interview (history);
 Collection and evaluation of evidence.

From: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1995-04-18/pdf/95-0615.pdf>



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The Medical Forensic Exam



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WHAT does your state pay for?

Answer in the chat





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VAW A 2005

Violence Against Women Act


- Full-out-of-pocket costs for exams covered
 - For the purpose of gathering evidence of sexual assault
- Not required to report or cooperate with law enforcement
 - To receive a medical forensic exam



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VAW A 2013

- Full-out-of-pocket costs for exams covered
 - For the purpose of gathering evidence of sexual assault
- Not required to report or cooperate with law enforcement
 - To receive a medical forensic exam
- Notify victims that the exams are available without cost



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WHO pays for exams in your state?

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VAWA
2013

Can
insurance
be billed?

Violence Against
Women Act

From: [FAQs about Stop Formula Grants, 2017](#)

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The Division will reimburse the provider for reasonable forensic medical exam expenses. These include appropriate procedures for acquiring evidence that may be used in a criminal proceeding against a person charged with a sex crime, and suturing and care of wounds associated directly with the sex crime, including anesthesia and prescribed medications. The interpretation of these services is at the discretion of the Division.

The Division is unable to process this invoice and the same is denied because the evidence collected was past the 120 hour guideline set by the National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations 2nd Edition.

Please note that pursuant to I.C. 16-21-8-6 and I.C. 5-2-6.1-39, a provider may not charge a victim for services provided under I.C. 16-21-8-1 as a result of a sexual assault.

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FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION PROGRAM

144 Leggett Street
Birmingham, AL 35203
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TDD: 205-975-2275

www.iafn.org

**Forensic Medical Examination
Itemized Bill Description**

This enclosure outlines the Forensic Medical Examination Program's description of an itemized bill. To proceed with the verification process on a bill, the bill **MUST BE ITEMIZED**. Therefore, please send a bill that provides the following information:

1. Provider(s) name, address and phone number.
2. Account number (if applicable).
3. Date(s) of Service (actual date services were provided).
4. A description of all the services provided (e.g. examiner's fee for the forensic medical examination, facility fee, medications, etc.)
5. Charges for each service provided.
6. Total charges.

1. Provider Information

2. Account Number

3. Date of Service

4. Description of Services

5. Cost per Service

6. Total Charges

How much does an exam cost?

Georgia Example

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What about pre-existing conditions?

"Pre-existing conditions — What did you die of?"

<http://baloosdailymedicalcartoon.blogspot.com/>

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+ FORENSIC INTERVIEWS
This program can reimburse for the cost of Forensic Interviews for minors or developmentally disabled adults, who may have experienced or witnessed a crime.

- The crime must have occurred in Georgia on or after July 1, 2014.
- The interview must be conducted in the context of a multidisciplinary and diagnostic team, by an interviewer with specialized training to conduct forensic interviews.
- To find out more about our Forensic Interview Program, or to download forms, visit our [Forensic Interview](#) page.

OTHER costs that may be covered

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Does your state cover the cost of medical forensic exams if the patient was assaulted in another state?

Should states work together and ensure the patient is NOT billed for services?

WHAT A PROVIDER NEEDS TO KNOW
 All of the following criteria must be met:

- The sexual assault must have occurred in Georgia on or after July 1, 2011.
- The program will pay for the cost of a FME up to \$1,000 per victim, per victimization. See the [FME Fee Schedule](#).

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Talk to Us

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