

Exam Funding

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SART Listserv

Issues: What is the average hospital charge for providing a sexual assault forensic medical exam? If a State has a reimbursement program for forensic medical exams, what is the reimbursement rate?

Background: The actual cost of the forensic- examination is only the amount that the "SANE" receives but may not reflect actual costs.

NCVC put together a resource on this topic a while ago.

<http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbName=DocumentViewer&DocumentID=32680>

Alaska

- We have 9 SANE programs. Each hospital with a program bills a different fee.
- The hospital bills law enforcement anywhere between \$700 and \$2200 for the medical-forensic exam, depending on the hospital.

California

- Chart for exam costs submitted as an attachment. Available upon request.

Florida

- I don't know what hospitals charge, but our state reimburses at \$250.

Georgia

- About 5-years ago we researched costs and the average real cost was between \$1400 and \$2300 (and that was 5-years ago!).
- The variable includes varying demographic and hospital factors.
- Free-standing programs that provide forensic-exams sometimes have an arrangement whereby if the exam is completed at the hospital, the hospital will sometimes absorb the difference (which is another way of saying they bill insurance or indigent care).

Indiana

- The charge for the evidence collection only compared to an entire exam is different due to lab work and medications that a patient receives.
- I would agree with Georgia's estimates for the actual costs.

Kansas

According to our SANE coordinator, who is also our Emergency Department manager:

- Kansas charges \$304 for a sexual assault exam.
- The county where the sexual assault occurred pays \$243.
- The charge for a colposcope exam is \$155. I'm not sure how much we recover on that.
- The county will not pay for any of the lab work nor will it pay for the medications. The hospital writes that portion of the exam off.

Louisiana

The patient billing manager at Medical Center of Louisiana in New Orleans figured the following:

- She took six patients and totaled their charges:

4,073.77
1,712.70
774.72
6,192.58
1,026.25
1,959.35

15,739.37

- This averages out to 2,623.22 per person. From these six patients, the low being 774.72 with the highest being 6,192.58.
- She found two cases where she thinks the patient accepted the HIV post-exposure prophylaxis. The total charges for those encounters are 1,484.45, and 1,712.70. Two charges for patients not on PEP are 1,026.25 and 774.72.

Michigan

- Our SANEs are paid through a grant, 200.00/exam
- The hospital donates the room, prophylaxis and STD medications.

Minnesota (Blue Earth County)

- In Blue Earth County, MN our average is about \$800.
- The county government pays for the entire cost.

- The state law: **609.35 COSTS OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.**
 - (a) Costs incurred by a county, city, or private hospital or other emergency medical facility or by a private physician for the examination of a victim of criminal sexual conduct when the examination is performed for the purpose of gathering evidence shall be paid by the county in which the criminal sexual conduct occurred. These costs include, but are not limited to, full cost of the rape kit examination, associated tests relating to the complainant's sexually transmitted disease status, and pregnancy status.
 - (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the duties, responsibilities, or liabilities of any insurer, whether public or private. However, a county may seek insurance reimbursement from the victim's insurer only if authorized by the victim. This authorization may only be sought after the examination is performed. When seeking this authorization, the county shall inform the victim that if the victim does not authorize this, the county is required by law to pay for the examination and that the victim is in no way liable for these costs or obligated to authorize the reimbursement.
 - (c) The applicability of this section does not depend upon whether the victim reports the offense to law enforcement or the existence or status of any investigation or prosecution.
- History:** 1975 c 374 s 11; 1981 c 273 s 6; 1986 c 351 s 16; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 75; 2002 c 381 s 6; 2003 c 116 s 3

Mississippi

Office Of The Attorney General - Division Of Victim Compensation -Sexual Assault Examination Payment Policy (submitted as an attachment; available upon request):

- A. The Office of the Attorney General will pay up to \$1,000 per case. This fee includes the following limits:
 - 1. All Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner's (SANE) fee (\$350)
 - 2. Facility fee (\$450) . . . this fee includes supplies, equipment and medications for the prevention of STDs, ECP, Hepatitis B, and a three-day supply of HIV prophylaxis
 - 3. Fees for lab tests (\$200)
- B. Payment made to the provider by the Office of the Attorney General, Victim Compensation Division for the sexual assault forensic examination conducted for the purpose of gathering evidence, as a direct result of the sexual offense, shall be considered by the provider as payment in full.
- C. The Provider may not submit any remaining balance to the victim/claimant or the Victim Compensation Division after reimbursement for the sexual assault medical forensic examination by a federal or federally financed program, such as Medicaid,, Medicare, Tricare, or the Veterans' Administration.

New York

- The charge is \$800 (although hospitals will say the cost is more like \$1,200).
- New York State Crime Victims Board announcement submitted as an attachment The attachment includes a Q&A section: (available upon request)

DATE: APRIL 1, 2005

The Crime Victims Board (CVB) is pleased to announce the implementation of the Forensic Rape Exam (FRE) Direct Reimbursement Program effective April 1, 2005. This new program affords additional

measures of personal privacy and financial relief for sexual assault survivors in the aftermath of a violent and traumatic event.

Authorized by an amendment to NYS Executive Law, Article 22 §631(13), the FRE Direct Reimbursement Program provides for direct payment by CVB to qualifying healthcare providers for covered costs of forensic rape examinations provided to sexual assault patients who do not have or who decline to use their private insurance benefits or any other insurance including Medicaid or Medicare. CVB will directly reimburse the healthcare provider an \$800 fee as payment in full for forensic examiner services, related facility costs, costs of equipment, materials and supplies required for the gathering of forensic evidence, as well as laboratory testing and pharmaceuticals commonly associated with an FRE.

Maine

Public Laws Of Maine

http://janus.state.me.us/legis/ros/lom/LOM119th/5Pub701-750/5Pub701-750-18.htm#P872_200503

- An examination must include at least all services directly related to the gathering of forensic evidence and related testing and treatment for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
- The board shall pay a licensed hospital or licensed health care practitioner the actual cost of the forensic examination up to a maximum of \$500.

Oregon

Oregon's SAVE Fund Reimbursement form submitted as an attachment. (Available upon request)

- Medical examination plus collection of forensic evidence using the Oregon State Police SAFE Kit. OSP SAFE Kit must be conducted no more than 84 hours (3_ days) after assault. Use of the kit must be authorized by and the kit must be provided to the appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction.
- \$380 maximum; \$455 maximum if examination conducted by a SANE.

Wisconsin

- An average cost is between \$500-\$1200 per exam.
- Most of the time the state pays 2/3 of the individual costs and the hospitals accept amount as payment in full. The victims (to our knowledge) are not billed for the final 1/3.
- Crime Victim Compensation said it would take months to pull the exact numbers for a grand total for all claims.