

Medical Forensic Exam (MFE) Payment Fact Sheet

A Guide for Healthcare Providers: Payment and Reimbursement for MFE Conducted on Incarcerated Survivors

All patients who have experienced sexual violence, including those who are incarcerated, have the right to a patient-centered, trauma-informed medical forensic examination (MFE) that is medically and evidentiarily appropriate.

The billing process for MFEs varies by jurisdiction, program, and facility. However, the survivor's incarceration status does not affect the process. For reimbursement claims on exams of patients that are incarcerated, follow your program's current standard billing process, ensuring compliance with your jurisdiction's specific policies and procedures.

Agencies that reimburse claims for a patient who is incarcerated

State-funded reimbursement programs for crime victims and SA survivors: for information, visit SAFEta.org to view the [State-by-state payment resource map](#).

The community confinement facility responsible for the day-to-day care of the survivor – such as the youth detention facility, community confinement facility, or city jail.

Federal Insurance Payor: Medicare/Medicaid MCR/MCD. Some States allow for federal payors to be billed. Refer to your jurisdiction's policies

Victim Services and Follow-up Care

Regardless of their incarceration status, all patients should be offered victim services as part of the MFE. Available services include crisis counseling, support, referrals, and advocacy services for victims (and their families as applicable) (U.S. DOJ OVV 2013)

For services not covered in the MFE, e.g., medications, HIV/STI testing, and follow-up medical care.

- The community confinement facility responsible for the patient's care should be contacted to ensure a coordinated multidisciplinary approach to provide services beyond those covered in the cost of the MFE, including follow-up medical care.

Victim service resources for the survivors

- Local Victim Advocacy programs, such as Local Rape Crisis Center
- Just Detention International [Survivor Resource Guide](#)

Resources for clinicians with billing questions or the need for additional information

- Clinician's Facility Billing Department
- Patient's Confinement Facility
- [Your State's Crimes Victims Compensation](#)
- [Just Detention International](#) – A health and human rights organization that seeks to end sexual abuse in all forms of detention
- International Association of Forensic Nurses' SAFEta Line 1-877-819-7278 or SAFEta.org to submit a request

safeta.org/payment

REFERENCES:

- 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>
- 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 Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape, Final Rule, 77 Fed. Reg. 37106-37232 (June 20, 2012) (to be codified at 28 C.F.R. §§ 115.21, 115.121, 115.221, 115.321, 115.82, 115.182, 115.282 and 115.382)115.82, 115.83
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. (2013, August). Recommendations for Administrators of Prisons, Jails, and Community Confinement Facilities for Adapting the U.S. Department of Justice's A National Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations, Adults/Adolescents.

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