

WI SAFE Fund

The WI Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Fund is a program that reimburses health care providers for the cost of a forensic medical exam for victims of sexual assault.

Eligibility

A victim must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Does not wish to report crime to law enforcement
- Does not wish to cooperate with law enforcement
- Does not wish to submit bill to insurance provider
- Does not wish to submit bill *or any portion of bill* to other available payer sources (i.e. patient, guarantor, guardian, etc.)
- Does not have insurance

Covered Costs

- Evaluation, testing, and prophylaxis for sexually transmitted diseases
- Evaluation of the risk of pregnancy
- Collection of blood and urine using the collection kit provided by law enforcement (*does not include drug testing* conducted by the medical facility)
- Collection of the victim's medical history and forensic history of the events of the sexual assault
- Physical examination of the victim for evidence of the sexual assault and photographs of the physical evidence of the sex offense**
- Cost for the use of the medical facility for the examination

*** Cost covered if the health care provider conducting the examination has been trained to take photographs for use as evidence*

Billing

- It is the responsibility of the health care provider to request reimbursement for the cost of the SAFE exam.
- A health care provider may not bill the victim, or family of the victim, for any of the examination costs identified above
- A health care provider seeking SAFE Fund reimbursement shall provide an itemized bill with individual charges listed for each reimbursable charge, along with a SAFE Fund request for reimbursement form.
- Only one itemized bill shall be submitted for each exam
- If insurance has paid any portion of the forensic exam, an EOB must be sent with the request for reimbursement form and itemized bill.

Payment

- The Department of Justice will make payment directly to the health care provider.
- The Department of Justice will pay two-thirds of the amount billed for eligible services, up to a maximum of \$1,347.52 for each examination in 2022.
- Beginning January 01, 2017, the maximum amount of an award shall be adjusted annually by the "inflation factor" as defined in s. 79.05(1)(am) Stats., and certified by the Department of Revenue under s. 79.05(2m), Stats.



Links

Admin Rules

Wis. Stat. 949.20

Updated 01/25/2022