



FACT SHEET: PAYMENT FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMS FOR MILITARY MEMBERS AND BENEFICIARIES



What is a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE)?

It is a medical and forensic examination of a sexual assault victim. During the SAFE, evidence is collected that could be used in court.

If I am an Active Duty Service member, do I have to pay for a SAFE?

No.

If I am a beneficiary of a military member, do I have to pay for a SAFE conducted at a military medical treatment facility?

No.

If I am a beneficiary of a military member, do I have to pay for a SAFE conducted at a civilian facility?

The FY07 National Defense Authorization Act provides authority for TRICARE to provide coverage for SAFEs, however the Departmental rule making process implementing this benefit is not complete. When this process is completed the exam will be a TRICARE benefit.

Until this process is completed, it is possible a facility may bill you for the exam. If this occurs you may seek reimbursement for the cost of the exam, in many states through the state's victims compensation fund, which typically covers the cost of such exams when they are not covered by insurance. If the state does not pay the hospital directly you should receive written information at the time of the exam on how to seek reimbursement. For more information about victims compensation, see the National Association of Crime Victims Compensation Boards at

<http://www.nacvcb.org/progdir.html>.

If you encounter a problem with payment for a SAFE and you are in the military or a military beneficiary, please contact the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office at sapro@wso.whs.mil or 703-696-9422.