

BILLING FACT SHEET FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT PROTOCOL

Pursuant to SC Code Section 16-3-1350, which follows the guidance of the federal Violence Against Women Act statute, victims of assault in the State of South Carolina may request, at no cost to them, a forensic examination for sexual assault, regardless of their involvement with law enforcement. Health Care Providers will bill SOVA directly for individual charges for lab work, emergency room fee, physician's fee, etc. **Neither the victim nor their insurance, including Medicaid and Medicare, may be billed for the medicolegal examination.** Any fees beyond the actual collection of any evidence during a forensic examination will be the responsibility of the victim. Should law enforcement be involved, the option of SOVA victim compensation reimbursement becomes available.

Payment for a routine medicolegal examination of any alleged victim of assault in any degree is dependent upon the following criteria/conditions:

- The assault must have occurred in South Carolina
- SLED approved Sexual Assault Protocol kit must be used;
- SOVA Sexual Assault Protocol (SAP) Billing Statement must be submitted;
- SOVA Medical Examination Release Form must be submitted: **NOTE: For Anonymous Reporting: when providing law enforcement information, write in 'ANONYMOUS' instead of the name of law enforcement agency. To establish that the crime/incident occurred in SC, the incident location (county and state) will be required.**

The medical examination release form and the SOVA billing statement found in the evidence collection kit must be completed and submitted to the State Office of Victim Assistance providing the following:

- name, address and signature of victim
- name and address of the health care facility
- when the incident was reported to law enforcement: name of law enforcement agency taking report
- Incident location (county and state)

No payment will be made unless forms are completed and submitted with correct documentation within 180 days from the date of the exam.

This Program is not permitted to pay for additional procedures such as:

- surgery, hospital admission, follow-up counseling, x-rays, **follow-up examinations**, treatment, blood work, alcohol or drug screens, or testing, stat charges, etc.

[Victims of assault who incur charges not covered under the Sexual Assault Protocol Program may submit a Victim Compensation application for payment consideration to the Victims' Compensation Fund.]

The Protocol Program makes payments to health care providers on a monthly basis. When multiple claims are submitted from a single provider for payment, one check is issued and sent with a list showing victims covered by payment.

For further information, visit www.sova.sc.gov then click on 'Payment & Reimbursement Guide', then scroll down to 'Part Two'. If you need additional information, you may contact us by calling (803) 734-1900.