Forensic Interviews...

As of August 15, 2004, SOVA will pay for forensic interviews for childern of sexual and physical abuse. Here are the guidelines in place regarding payment.

- Forensic interview must be performed to standards defined by SOVA
- Centers approved by SOVA
- Must submit the SOVA Forensic Interview Report, the SOVA Forensic Interview Release Form and an itemized bill

Questions about protocol billing?
Call the SAP/CAP Claims Processor at (803) 734-1900

SOVA

Rooted in *justice*
Guided by *law*
Propelled by *humanity*

Remember ...

Payments are dependent upon the following conditions:

- The crime must have occurred in South Carolina
- The victim (or guardian) must file an incident report with law enforcement
- The medical-legal examination must be performed using the protocol standards developed by SLED

State Office of Victim Assistance
1205 Pendleton Street
Edgar A. Brown Building, Room 401
Columbia, SC 29201
sova@oepp.sc.gov
Phone: (803) 734-1900
Fax: (803) 734-1708
Victims Only: 1 (800) 220-5370

SOVA

SOUTH CAROLINA
State Office of Victim Assistance

SAP
Sexual Assault Protocol
CAP
Child Abuse Protocol

What medical providers need to know about ...

www.govoepp.state.sc.us/sova

The State Office of Victim Assistance is authorized by state law to pay medical facilities for allowable charges incurred in gathering bodily evidence from a victim at law enforcement's request. The attending physician must use one of the protocol kits developed by SLED for the exam: the Sexual Assault Protocol Kit for an adult or the Child Abuse Protocol Kit for a minor. Kits should be used only as instructed to obtain evidence to assist in the prosecution of the offender.

To receive reimbursement for performing the SAP/CAP exam, you must submit a copy of the protocol with the itemized bill for services rendered. This bill must show individual charges for lab work by test, emergency room fee, physician's fee, etc.

The SAP/CAP program will pay your facility directly on a monthly basis for exams conducted. If your office submits multiple claims together at the same time, then only one collective check will be issued. A list of victims' names covered by that particular check will be included.

Victims are NOT to be billed, nor should you file with their health insurance.

Release Form Requirements

You must also complete the entire medical release form to submit to us along with the copy of the protocol and itemized bill. To avoid processing delays, make sure that the necessary information and signature are included :

SOVA

- Name, address and signature of victim/gaurdian
- Name and signature of the attending physician
- Name and address of the health care facility
- Name of law enforcement agency that took report
- Name of investigating/reporting officer (and signature if available)

This program is **NOT** permitted to pay for any additional procedures such as:

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

Injured victims of assault or abuse who incur other crime related medical bills may submit a separate Crime Victims' Compensation application to SOVA. It will be reviewed for eligibility for certain benefits. If deemed eligible, SOVA can pay up to $15,000 towards medical bills, lost wages, counseling and burial costs. SOVA is a last resort for payment. A victim must file with his or her health insurance first. We can consider balances due after insurance.

*When a sibling group is examined, an incident report that names each child as a direct victim is required along with the billing information. If an examined child is not listed on the incident report as a victim, then we will **NOT** be able to cover the costs for that particular minor.*