

Information for Victims

Federal Law states that victims of sexual assault must be provided with free medical forensic sexual assault exams. The purpose of the forensic medical exam is to provide medical care and collect evidence for prosecution in case you decide to report the assault at any time. You can get medications to prevent STD's and pregnancy.

Key Facts:

- ▶ You are not required to report to the police, cooperate with the investigation or participate in criminal prosecution in order to get the exam and needed medications.
- ▶ Hospitals are not allowed to bill you or your insurance company for the cost of the forensic exam. Hospitals are required to bill the WA State Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) or the CVCP in the state where the sexual assault occurred.
- ▶ CVCP will cover some pharmacy related costs, including emergency birth control, medicine to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, Hepatitis B and Tetanus, when billed in connection with the forensic sexual assault exam. It is best to get the medications through the hospital where you received your forensic exam as the pharmacy will directly bill the CVCP. If you go to another pharmacy, you may have to pay the costs first and then turn in the bills and paperwork to CVCP to get reimbursed. Please check with the pharmacy.
- ▶ To contact the CVCP in the state where you were assaulted, visit: <http://nacvcb.org/index.asp?bid=8> or look up National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards. Your state CVCP office will be listed and you can click on the link.

To find out more about other ways CVCP can help cover costs related to your sexual assault, please call CVCP at:

1-800-762-3716 or visit the CVCP website at
www.crimevictims.lni.wa.gov

To find a local Community Sexual Assault Program in your area, visit the WCSAP website at **www.wcsap.org**

Information for Providers

The Violence Against Women Act states that victims of sexual assault must be provided with free medical forensic exams. The purpose of the exam is to provide medical care and collect evidence for prosecution in case the victim decides to report at any time.

- ▶ Victims are not required to make a report, cooperate with law enforcement or participate in the criminal justice system in order to receive the no cost sexual assault forensic exam.
- ▶ In order to comply, hospitals providing sexual assault forensic exams must bill the Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP). Hospitals cannot bill victims directly.
- ▶ A narrative report or the one-page sexual assault exam report must be submitted with the bill and indicate the location of the assault (city, county, state).
- ▶ All exams performed in Washington State for victims sexually assaulted in Washington State, must be billed to the CVCP. Hospitals and emergency medical providers are reimbursed for the exam through Washington's CVCP. *Exemptions to this rule involve sexual assaults of victims who were incarcerated in a city, county or federal jail or in a facility operated by the Department of Social and Health Services or Department of Corrections at the time of the assault.*
- ▶ When a sexual assault occurred out of state, the forensic exam must be billed to the CVCP in the state the sexual assault occurred. The victim cannot be billed for the exam.
- ▶ Visit <http://nacvcb.org/index.asp?bid=8> to find the state CVCP for billing to, or look up National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards.
- ▶ CVCP will cover the following pharmacy related items when billed in conjunction with the initial sexual assault examination provided all other conditions satisfy RCW 7.68.170.
 - Post coital contraception
 - Prophylaxis for sexually transmitted diseases
 - Hepatitis B Immune Globulin
 - Tetanus Toxoid vaccine
 - 28-day course of HIV therapy medication

If you have any questions regarding how to bill for this exam or pharmacy related costs, the forms required, or the services covered as part of the exam, please review the CVCP billing guidelines at:

www.lni.wa.gov/forms/pdf/F800-100-000.pdf

or call CVCP at **1-800-762-3716**;

or visit the CVCP website at

www.crimevictims.lni.wa.gov

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