

Payment Factsheet for Military SAFE Exams

Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Reimbursement via TRICARE: A Guide for Healthcare Professionals

This factsheet reviews TRICARE coverage for both active and non-active military survivors and their eligible family beneficiaries, ensuring access to necessary services without financial barriers.

TRICARE Coverage Details Related to Medical Forensic Exams:

- **There is No Obligation for the Patient to Report to Law enforcement or Military Command**
- **No Prior Authorization Required**
- **Access to Care:** Services for medical forensic exams can be accessed at military medical treatment facilities or through TRICARE-authorized providers, including non-military hospitals and healthcare clinics with specially trained healthcare providers such as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)
- **No Explanation of Benefits (EOB) Issued:** Beneficiaries will not receive an EOB for claims related to sexual assault
- **Cost and Coverage:** TRICARE covers the full cost of medical forensic exams and associated services, which may include services such as:
 - Pregnancy Prevention
 - Treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
 - HIV Prophylaxis
 - Mental Health Support: access to mental health resources to help cope with the trauma of the assault
- **Allowable Charges:** TRICARE reimburses for allowable charges related to the medical forensic exam for patients who have experienced sexual assault (TRICARE, 2024)

Individual, Network, and Non-Network Clinical Provider Requirements

- **TRICARE Authorization:** Providers must be TRICARE-authorized to submit claims for reimbursement. This requires meeting specific licensing and certification requirements set by TRICARE, including being properly registered and credentialed with TRICARE.
- **Documentation Standards:** Ensure that the medical forensic exam is documented appropriately, including the necessity of the exam due to a suspected or reported sexual assault. All services should be documented clearly to support any claims submitted.
- **Compliance:** Providers must adhere to TRICARE guidelines and requirements outlined in the TRICARE Reimbursement Manual and TRICARE Policy Manual, ensuring compliance with all applicable policies during the claim process.

Contact the respective Managed Care Support Contractor with any questions or guidance regarding TRICARE certification or billing/claims filing

safeta.org/payment

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Claim Submission Process and Reimbursement Requirements

Required documentation:

- **Claim Form:** Complete the TRICARE claim form
- **Itemized Bill:** Submit an itemized bill that includes the date of service, place of service, description of service (CPT codes), and diagnosis codes (ICD-CM-10 codes) indicating the exam was related to sexual assault. Medical forensic exam related billing code factsheets are accessible on [SAFETA.org](https://www.safeta.org).

Submission Process:

- Claims can be mailed to the appropriate TRICARE claims address based on your region or submitted online through the TRICARE regional contractor's portal.
- For the U.S. and U.S. territories, claims must be filed within one year from the date of service. For services provided overseas, claims must be submitted within three years.

Follow-Up:

- After submitting the claim, regularly check the status online through your regional contractor's portal or contact them directly for updates to ensure timely processing.

Processing Time:

- Most claims are processed within 30 days. TRICARE reimburses for allowable charges, excluding copayments, cost-shares, or deductibles for the survivor, ensuring there are no financial barriers to accessing care.

For more information on the claim submission process, including claims forms and guidance for East, West, and Overseas regions, and access to contractor (provider) online portals, visit [Health.mil](https://www.health.mil), the official website of the military health system.

Additional Resources

[TRICARE Patient Resources](#) [TRICARE Medical Claims](#)

[TRICARE How-to: Filing Claims and Reimbursements](#)

[Defense Health Agency: Integrated Primary Harm Prevention and Intervention](#)

[Military Payment Resources](#) on the Exam Payment Interactive state-by-state resource page at SAFETA.org

[safeta.org/payment](https://www.safeta.org/payment)

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