

SAFE FAQ

Q: Who can receive payment for SAFE?

A: The SAFE program may reimburse a hospital, children's advocacy center, or other emergency medical facility for fees related to the forensic evidence collection. If there is a physician's fee, the hospital, children's advocacy center, or emergency medical facility is responsible for making payment for their services. The SAFE program does not pay physician's fees directly.

Q: How do I become eligible for SAFE payments?

A: In order to receive SAFE reimbursements you must:

- Register as a vendor to do business with the State of Ohio. Paperwork can be found at [Direct Deposit Form](#).
- Identify a Facility Coordinator and submit the applicant's name for approval. Each site is eligible to have up to three coordinators. Review the listed criteria for the Facility Coordinator in order to ensure they meet eligibility requirements. Paperwork can be found at [Facility Coordinator Form](#). Once approved, each Facility Coordinator will be assigned login information for the online submission process.
- All requests for reimbursement must be submitted online [http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Victims/Sexual-Assault-Forensic-Examination-\(SAFE\)-Program/Safe-Form.aspx](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Victims/Sexual-Assault-Forensic-Examination-(SAFE)-Program/Safe-Form.aspx).

Q: What costs does SAFE cover?

A: SAFE covers expenses tied specifically to the forensic evidence collection. This includes the following:

- The emergency department fee.
- A medical exam to assess for sexual assault trauma.
- The physician fee if the only service provided is related to the SAFE.
- The antibiotic prophylaxis, speculum, lubricant, any swabs or tubes.

Q: How much can I be reimbursed?

A: The SAFE program reimburses a flat rate of \$532. A hospital, children's advocacy center, or other emergency medical facility shall accept a flat fee payment of five hundred thirty-two dollars as payment in full for any cost incurred in conducting a medical examination of a patient for the purpose of gathering physical evidence for a possible prosecution, including the cost of any antibiotics administered.

Q: Who pays for other costs not covered by the SAFE payment?

A: If there are medical issues in addition to the forensic exam that require assistance, the hospital, children's advocacy center, or emergency medical facility may seek payment from the patient. Examples include, but are not limited to: suturing, x-rays, broken bones, emergency contraception, sexually transmitted infection testing (which is discouraged for adults), HIV testing, and pregnancy testing.

Patients are encouraged to apply for the Victims of Crime Compensation program. This fund may be able to cover some of the additional expenses charged during the exam. [Crime Victims Compensation Application](#)

Q: Who do I bill?

A: All SAFE reimbursement claims must be submitted online at [Online Submission Link](#) by a Facility Coordinator.

Q: What is a Facility Coordinator and why do we need one?

A: A Facility Coordinator is designated as the point of contact for all SAFE billing issues. The Facility Coordinator must submit an application for approval. [Facility Coordinator Form](#)

Q: My facility only examines adults and older adolescents. Do I need to complete the pediatric expert form?

A: The expert form is only required to be completed when your facility is providing exams on children outside of the 72 hour window. If exams are done, the medical provider must have expertise and training in conducting pediatric sexual assault exams. The physicians, APN or PA form is located at [Non-acute Pediatric Sexual Abuse Expert](#)

The form for Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) is located at [Non-acute Pediatric Sexual Abuse Expert](#)

Q: How do I find out the status of a claim?

Please allow 60 days from the date of submission for claim processing. If more than 60 days has passed, inquiries can be made with the SAFE program manager at 614-466-4797. You will need the date of service and patient name.

As of July 1, 2014, Facility Coordinators can view the payment status of claims submitted for payment six months from patient date of service.

Q: A claim was denied. Why?

A: A claim can be denied for multiple reasons. Following are some possible reasons.

1. The reimbursement form was missing information. The denial notification will reflect what information is missing and allow for the claim to be resubmitted within 4 months of the denial.
2. The claim was not submitted online. All SAFE submissions are required to be submitted online by the Facility Coordinator. If paper documentation is sent to the SAFE program, the Coordinators will be notified and the documents will be shredded.
3. An exam on a child outside of the 72 hour window was not conducted by a child sexual abuse expert approved by the SAFE program. Applications are available for approval:
 - Physicians, APN, PA - [Non-acute Pediatric Sexual Abuse Expert](#)
 - Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners - [SANE-P Non-acute Pediatric Sexual Assault Expert](#)
4. The claim was submitted after 6 months from the date of service. All claims must be submitted within 6 months of the date of services.

5. The claim was for a domestic violence assessment. The SAFE program does not reimburse for domestic violence medical exams. If the exam was for evidence collection related to sexual abuse, then you may resubmit but, please be specific about the indicators to have an exam conducted.
6. The SAFE program does not pay for suspect exams, even at the request of law enforcement.
7. The claim was denied and the form said “no forensic evidence collected”. If there are no indicators noted to suggest why an exam was conducted, the claim will be denied. Language such as “no”, “patient report”, “patient stated”, “patient history” are unacceptable and will likely result in a denial or resubmission.

Q: I’m having problems submitting online.

A: There are multiple reasons that submitting may be an issue:

- Verify that all required fields have been completed.
- Confirm receipt of a login and password after submitting your Facility Coordinator application. If you didn’t receive this information, it’s possible your form was not received and you’re not approved as a Facility Coordinator.
- There is a block with Google Chrome when it comes time to print the form. Use a different search engine when submitting online.
- If you filled out the entire form and it won’t allow you to submit, you should contact your Information Technology Staff. This is likely a problem on your end.