

# Victim Compensation Fund and Sexual Assault Exam Expenses

- ▶ As a victim of a crime, you have rights under Massachusetts law, and you are eligible for assistance.
- ▶ Victim compensation will cover some expenses from your emergency room (ER) visit.
- ▶ You can apply for assistance with expenses up to a maximum of \$25,000.

**Who is eligible?** Any victim of sexual assault who has a sexual assault forensic evidence and/or exam collected at a Massachusetts ER. **For payment by Victim Compensation, the Sexual Assault Exam Forensic Collection Kit *must* be opened. Your name, address, and birthdate is sent to the Attorney General's office and kept confidential.**

## Your payment options for today's visit

### 1. You have insurance but *cannot* safely use it or *do not* want to use it for personal reasons

The total amount of the exam (copayments and other fees) will be submitted to the Victim Compensation Fund, and there will be *no* record of the hospital visit on your insurance.

**You will not be billed for your visit. Tell the hospital staff not to bill you.**

### 2. You *do not* have insurance, or it will not cover the ER visit

The total amount of the exam (copayments and other fees) should also be submitted to the Victim Compensation Fund and *not* be billed to you directly.

### 3. You *do* have insurance and can safely use it

- The hospital may submit the costs of the hospital visit to your insurance.
- If any portion of the costs are not covered by your insurance (copayments and other fees), that amount will *not* be billed to you but submitted to the Victim Compensation Fund.
- If you are billed or pay your hospital bill amount, the hospital should refund amount paid within 90 days of identifying the reason for the visit and submit the claim to the Victim Compensation Fund.

## Costs considered part of the forensic exam

- **Physician fee:** Doctors' fees that cover evaluation, treatment, and medical care
- **Hospital fees:**
  - Room and board, nursing, and other staff charges
  - Forensic examination and/or forensic evidence collection
  - Additional fees/services, including labs and toxicology reports
  - Imaging (such as CT scan, MRI, x-ray, or ultrasound)
  - Medications provided during the forensic medical examination and before discharge, including medications to treat sexually transmitted infections and HIV PEP starter pack

## Costs *not* considered part of the forensic exam

- Any fees if assault happened outside of Massachusetts (call Forensic Info Line below to discuss options)
- Ambulance fees
- Treatment and critical care in the hospital (not in the ER)
- Follow-up visits to an infectious disease clinic, including medication

If these are billed directly to you, you may be entitled to ask for reimbursement for any non-covered services by the Victim Compensation Fund through a separate application.