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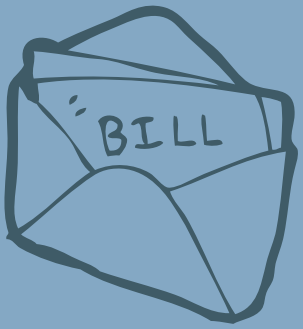
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STATE-BASED RAPE KIT BILLING



Rape victims in some states are lawfully being billed for services that are free to victims in other states

FEDERALLY REQUIRED*

The federal legislation provides a narrow definition of the exam, stating that, at minimum, it must include:



- Examining physical trauma
- Determining penetration or force
- Interviewing the patient
- Collecting and evaluating evidence

*Linked to policy



TESTING COVERED

The services covered as part of an exam vary widely from state to state, services such as STI screening, HIV/AIDS testing may not be covered



All states must identify their own funding sources to cover costs

WHERE POLICY MEETS PRACTICE

Whether a patient gets charged and how much varies according to what hospital they go to, who the admitting staff on duty are, and whether the billing employee knows the state-identified fund to bill to and what the policy is around charging sexual assault victims.

Policies exist, but are not always implemented.



2 out of every 3 states use victim compensation funds to pay for at least some of the rape exam

PERSONAL IMPACT

While erroneous billing does not seem to be widespread, rape victims are still being billed differentially because of variation in state policy. Should the amount of services provided to a rape victim free-of-charge depend on the misfortune of which state she or he happens to be raped in?

