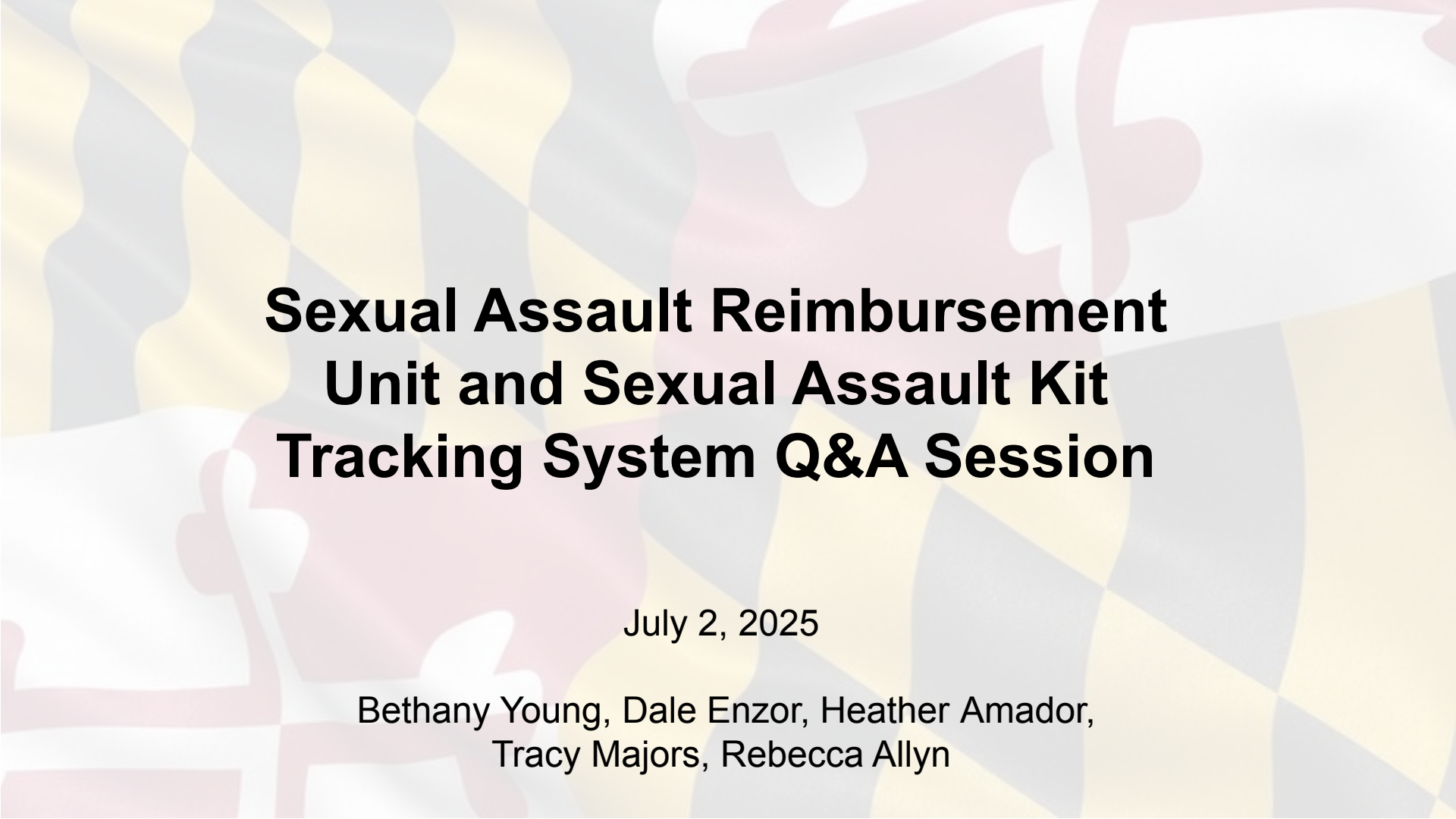




Sexual Assault Reimbursement Unit and Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System Q&A Session

July 2, 2025

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Eligibility for Reimbursement

Are “medical only” exams (no evidence collection or police involvement) reimbursed by SARU?

Yes, with proper documentation. A patient does not need to consent to a SAFE exam or speak to law enforcement for their care to be reimbursed by SARU.

Do “medical only” exams need to occur at a SAFE program? Can a survivor seek additional care at another hospital if the first one didn’t provide full services?

A SAFE hospital is a patient’s best option when possible. If a patient receives medical care at one facility and a SAFE exam at a hospital, SARU will reimburse both. Multiple hospitals should not, however, bill the SARU for the same services provided to the same patient. All facilities and providers must submit the required documentation.

Are urgent cares, individual physicians, or non-SAFE hospitals eligible for reimbursement?

Yes, for services related to the assault. SARU guidelines and saru.claims@maryland.gov can help.

Eligibility for Reimbursement

Does follow-up care need to happen at the original hospital?

No, follow-up can happen elsewhere. It must be billed separately with its own documentation.

What should be used on the SSRF if there's no police case or property number?

Use the Medical Record Number (MRN).

Does the provider need to be an FNE?

The care provided must be within the provider's scope of practice as determined by the licensing authority.

Are telehealth services reimbursable?

Yes. The care provided must be within the provider's scope of practice as determined by the appropriate licensing authority. Multiple hospitals or providers should not, however, bill the SARU for the same services provided to the same patient. All facilities and providers must submit the required documentation.

What does "follow-up medical testing" include?

Follow-up medical testing obtained within 90 days of the initial examination for injuries (and STIs) sustained as a result of the alleged rape or sexual assault. This also includes nPEP follow-up.

Billing, Reimbursement, and Documentation

Who should be billed – SARU or CICB?

SARU, not CICB. The Code needs to be updated.

Can hospitals receive a breakdown of what was reimbursed? Is there an appeals process?

This is something GOCPP is exploring. In the meantime, SARU will respond to direct inquiries and allows corrected submissions.

Is there a guidance document for what SARU covers, including formulations of medications?

Yes, check the GOCPP website under 'Victim Services.' SARU will update guidelines soon.

Are there standard reimbursement rates for services?

The revised regs tie reimbursement to Maryland Medicaid rates. HSCRC determines allowable hospital services rates.

Is there a process to pre-establish a provider's eligibility for reimbursement?

Providers must establish a pay-to account with the Comptroller to receive reimbursement. In terms of facilities, MDH designates facilities that provide sexual assault services under Crim. Pro. §11–924.

Billing, Reimbursement, and Documentation

Does the 4456 form need a patient signature for sexual abuse reimbursement?

Hospitals seeking reimbursement for Emergency Department charges should use the SSRF which requires patient/victim or designated representative signature. The 4456 is specifically for services provided by CACs.

Why are evidence collection processes included in reimbursement regulations?

They are being removed in the update to streamline focus on reimbursement.

When is nPEP Reimbursement Form v. SSRF page 6 used?

The complete SSRF is used to request reimbursement from SARU for facilities providing nPEP directly.

Page 6 of SSRF: Used if medication is not provided at discharge and must be sent to outside pharmacy.

No patient signature required here.

Medications and Pharmacy

Will SARU cover Biktarvy for nPEP?

SARU is exploring this and researching costs.

Can Flagyl and Doxy be added to the HIV section of SSRF?

They're already on the exam pages.

Third-party pharmacy reimbursement process?

Pharmacies must have a pay-to account with the Comptroller and send invoices to SARU with documentation. Alturix is preferred due to logistical ease.

Appeals and Patient Protections

Neither patients, their families, nor insurance should receive a bill for emergency medical treatment provided that is related to the the sexual assault.

THE ONE EXCEPTION: after being informed of their right to provide or decline insurance or benefits information for nPEP ONLY, patients may provide or decline to provide said information.

What should survivors do if incorrectly charged?

Contact the provider's billing department. If the provider is unresponsive, survivors can contact SARU.

Is there SARU guidance for billing unrelated medical issues seen during the same visit?

No. Only sexual assault-related emergency care is reimbursable.

How can mistreatment or discouragement from receiving a SAFE be reported?

Maryland Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) handles complaints about medical care, facility safety, and rights violations. The Maryland Board of Nursing or Medical Board would handle complaints about specific healthcare personnel (e.g., nurses or doctors).

Special Cases

Are inmates eligible for reimbursement via SARU?

Providers treating inmates outside of prison facilities can receive SARU reimbursement.

Will Altruix send nPEP to prisons?

Unknown.

Are all child abuse cases billed to SARU?

COMAR 10.48.01.01 - 10.48.01.10 governs reimbursement. Use Form 2655. SARU may reimburse, but only when other sources of payment are not available or have been exhausted. Providers must prioritize billing other sources and refund SARU if duplication of payment occurs.