

February 4, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chief Executive Officers, Member Institutions

**PLEASE ROUTE TO:** Director of Emergency Services; Director of Registration and Admitting; Director of Patient Accounts

**FROM:** Barb Haller, Director, Health Policy & Regulation, IHA

Linnea O'Neill, Director, Clinical, Administrative, Professional & Emergency Services, MCHC

**SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Survivors – Voucher System Information**

In the past, many survivors of sexual assault did not return to the hospital or go to any other provider to obtain needed follow-up health care or medications because of the cost involved. As a result of discussion among interested groups and resulting legislation, a new program was established to address this issue. Effective last January (1-1-08), the Department of Healthcare and Family Services' (HFS) Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment Program began providing payment for related follow-up healthcare services to survivors of sexual assault whose follow-up expenses are not covered by Medicaid or private insurance. The program utilizes the Early Registration Sexual Assault Survivor System (ERSASS) "voucher" generated by the hospital at the time of the survivor's initial visit for emergency services. The survivor must take the voucher to follow-up healthcare providers so that the state program can reimburse the providers for follow-up services related to the sexual assault. **In order to generate the necessary voucher, hospitals must be registered with HFS' Medical Electronic Data Interchange (MEDI) System.**

In the last year, under the new program, HFS has paid 307 claims for follow-up health care for survivors who have presented the voucher at the time of their follow-up care. This is a great increase over the 40 claims paid in 2007, before the law was changed and the voucher system was initiated. It is important for all hospitals to be registered for the MEDI system, and ready to generate the voucher to give to the survivor at the time of the initial hospital visit for sexual assault emergency services.

The documents attached to this memo include:

- (1) [Instructions \(revised\) for registering with the MEDI system, if your hospital is not already registered.](#)
- (2) [Frequently Asked Questions to assist your understanding of this important program.](#)

February 4, 2009  
Page 2

We hope this memo is helpful. For additional information on the changes to the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act that were effective last year (1/1/08); to learn how to obtain a CD of the IHA Webinar (held in late 2007) on these changes—including how to generate a voucher—click the links below:

<http://www.ihatoday.org/issues/regulatory/saseta.html>

<http://www.ihatoday.org/issues/regulatory/assaultsurv.html>

If you have questions about this memo, please contact Barb Haller at the Illinois Hospital Association at [bhaller@ihastaff.org](mailto:bhaller@ihastaff.org), or 630-276-5474 or Linnea O’Neill at the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council at [loneill@mchc.com](mailto:loneill@mchc.com) or 312-906-6061. For questions related to the MEDI System, please contact Kathy Prunty at the Department of Healthcare and Family Services at [Kathleen.prunty@illinois.gov](mailto:Kathleen.prunty@illinois.gov) or 217-782-3303.