



Uniform Charity Care Policy for Franklin County Hospital Systems

Unlike many other large cities, where designated charity care hospitals are established, often supported through local tax levy dollars, Columbus is fortunate that local hospitals have a long-standing commitment to share responsibility for providing care to all members of our community, regardless of their ability to pay. Hospital leaders reaffirmed that commitment on Sept. 6, 2007, by adopting a uniform charity care policy, in which they agree to follow the same guidelines when providing free and significantly discounted care to patients. Those guidelines are provided below.

Free Care

(HCAP) Free, medically necessary hospital care for Ohio residents with family incomes under 100% of the federal poverty income limits (FPL) as outlined in OAC 5101:3-2-07.17. Documentation is generally required.

Charity Care Free medically necessary hospital care for patients with family incomes between 101% and 200% of FPL.

Discounted medically necessary, hospital care for patients with families incomes up to 400% FPL. Discounts will be based on a dual sliding scale developed from both FPL and total charges.

Notes: Family unit for income calculations is based on HCAP. Income may include assets, if available. Assets may be considered in determination if available.

Patients are encouraged to apply for Medicaid or assist with any other third-party payer that might cover care.

Because of the significant number of children without commercial health insurance who are eligible for Medicaid, parents seeking care for their children at Nationwide Children's Hospital are required to apply for Medicaid before they can access the hospital's charity care program. The actual delivery of care will not be denied.

Hospital may deny out-of-panel, non-emergency care after patient notification and if they reside in out of system service areas.

"Untimely" applications may be denied.

Special Circumstances/ Hardship Cases/ Catastrophic Care

Full or partial discounts are considered on a case-by-case basis when patient's unusual financial situation, medical debt or other unusual circumstances prevent them from qualifying for charity care programs or applying for public assistance.

Collection Activity

Hospitals have a rigorous process for due diligence to assure that patients are treated fairly and those who have ability to help pay for care is required to do so. Decision to forward case for action requires the internal judgment of a designated hospital leader or committee. Legal action may be pursued against patients who have the means to pay but are unwilling.