

# Fifth Avenue Hospital

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## CHARITY CARE PLAN

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 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
 HOSPITAL DATA

### Policy:

Fifth Avenue Hospital recognizes its public obligation to provide medically required free or reduced cost care to patients, or their legal financial sponsors, when adequate income or assets are not available to pay for that service. Therefore, Fifth Avenue Hospital will provide charity (uncompensated) care as dictated by its available resources, and will not deny necessary medical care to any individual based on that individual's ability to pay, national origin, age, physical disabilities, race, color, sex, or religion.

### Guidelines:

To ensure that necessary health care will be available to indigent persons and to properly distinguish indigent care from bad debts, the following provisions for granting charity care will be adhered to:

- (1) All other available resources including Medicare, Medicaid, and Third Party Payors are exhausted. If a family appears to be eligible for Medicaid, hospital Financial Counselors will assist the family in making proper application to DSHS for medical coverage.
- (2) Gross family income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines as adjusted for family size.

Qualifying Charity % Income Basis:	A 100% 160% <i>csa</i>	B 80% 170% <i>csa</i>	C 60% 180% <i>csa</i>	D 40% 190% <i>csa</i>	E 20% 200% <i>csa</i>	
Family Size	CSA Gross Income					
01	\$6,280	10,048	10,676	11,304	11,932	12,560
02	8,420	13,472	14,314	15,156	15,998	16,840
03	10,560	16,896	17,952	19,008	20,064	21,120
04	12,700	20,320	21,590	22,860	24,130	25,400
05	14,840	23,744	25,228	26,712	28,196	29,680
06	16,980	27,168	28,866	30,564	32,262	33,960
07	19,120	30,592	32,504	34,416	36,328	38,240
08	21,260	34,016	36,142	38,268	40,394	42,520

\* \$2,140 for each additional family member.  
 For example, a family of 3 with an income of \$19,000 would qualify for 60% charity write-off (line 3, column C).

- (3) Necessary care excludes elective or cosmetic procedures, but some cases may be considered for charity service based on a physician recommendation that the service has medical or psychological justification.

- (4) Charity will be granted equally to all qualifying individuals, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, or physical disabilities.

Application Procedure:

- (1) Requests to provide charity services may originate from many sources, such as physicians, community or religious groups, social services, financial services personnel, hospital management, or the patient. It is preferred that the application form be completed prior to admission or upon admission. However, when circumstances prevent early completion, the application form may be completed after discharge. These forms are available to all patients from the hospital's Patient Account Department.
- (2) Confidential financial information will be requested, including:
  - (a) Gross income - current and prospective.
  - (b) Net worth - emphasis on liquidity.
  - (c) Employment status.
  - (d) Family size and ages of dependents.
  - (e) Other financial obligations.
  - (f) Amounts of health care bills - frequency and amount.
  - (g) All other support sources - welfare, third-parties.
- (3) All income will be verified by payroll check stubs, IRS tax returns, determination of eligibility for unemployment compensation.
- (4) Patients will be asked to provide verification on ineligibility for Medicaid.
- (5) Determination of eligibility will be made by the Hospital's Patient Account Department and approved by the Administrator, Chief Financial Officer, and the Director of Patient Accounts.

Record Keeping:

- (1) All charges for necessary health care for patients who are unable to pay (i.e. who meet the guidelines set forth in this charity plan), will be written off as indigent (charity) care.
- (2) All patients approved for charity care will be notified in writing of the amount to be adjusted from their accounts. If a payment is received on a charity care account after write-off, an adjustment will be made to the charity care records in the month that payment is received.
- (3) Accurate records of all charity care rendered will be maintained and submitted to the Washington State Hospital Commission at the close of each calendar quarter.

Exemptions From Standard:

Catastrophic hospitalization costs, sizable other medical bills, or other patient specific circumstances (based on fairness and ability to pay) may justify granting charity care, even when a patient exceeds the indigency standards. This policy is supported by the Washington State Hospital Commission and WAC 261-14.

Allocation of Charity Funds:

Charity funds will be allocated quarterly on a first come first served basis. The hospital staff reserves the right to evaluate the greater need for receiving free care, when more than one qualifying candidate is competing for the available funds.

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