

## SALEM COMMUNITY HOSPITAL CHARITY CARE POLICY

Salem Community Hospital will provide care without charge to persons who are unable to pay. This is known as "Charity Care". Any patient serviced by Salem Community Hospital may apply. Those whose income (using calculations as approved by the State of Ohio Hospital Care Assurance Program [HCAP]) is under 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines published for the current year may apply for Charity Care under the HCAP program (see Policy). Patients whose income is above such levels, but due to extenuating circumstances are deemed needy, will also be considered for Charity Care. Decisions to grant Charity Care are made without regard to race, sex, creed, color, national origin or age.

Amounts will be considered for Charity Care after third parties have paid or denied. To be considered for Charity Care, a patient/guarantor must cooperate with the Hospital to provide the information and documentation necessary to apply for other existing financial resources that may be available to pay for healthcare, such as Medicare, Medicaid, third party liability, etc. Verification of income and dependent status is required.

Gross wages will be used in determination of eligibility. Social Security income will be annual payments after deductions for Medicare.

Income guidelines are derived from the Federal Register, which is updated annually every February. A copy is available in the Patient Accounting Department.

In determining Charity Care eligibility, the Hospital may also consider assets other than income that could be used to meet the financial obligation. Individuals not qualifying for Charity Care may qualify to receive discounts pursuant to the Uninsured/Underinsured Discount Policy.

The Hospital will not pursue collection procedures for non-payment of bills against Charity Care patients who have clearly demonstrated that they have neither sufficient income nor assets to meet their financial obligations.

Effective Date 7/1/07

Revised 9/14/09