

CC005 - HOSPITAL CARE ASSURANCE & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

ISSUED DATE: 01/01/2003	APPROVED DATE: 02/21/2023
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HOSPITAL CARE ASSURANCE & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

NUMBER: CC# 005 (Replaces both 005 and 012)
REFERENCE: Ohio Revised Code / Ohio Administrative Code/Section 501(r) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, in addition to Ohio law references.

I. PURPOSE:

Consistent with its mission to provide quality health care and promote wellness, close to home for the extended community, Wayne HealthCare is committed to providing financial assistance to every person in need of emergency or other medically necessary care even if that person is uninsured, underinsured, or ineligible for other government programs, in accordance with the eligibility criteria and other guidelines set forth in this policy.

II. POLICY:

Under the provisions of section 5168.14 of the Ohio Revised Code, each hospital that receives payment under the provision shall provide, without charge to the individual, basic, medically necessary hospital-level services to the individual who is a resident of Ohio, who is not a recipient of the Medicaid Program and whose income is at or below the federal poverty guidelines. Current recipients of the disability assistance or its successor programs as defined in Chapter 5115 of the Ohio Revised Code, qualify for services under the provisions of this rule.

To consistently apply the rules and regulations for the Hospital Care Assurance (HCAP) and Financial Assistance Programs.

III. DEFINITIONS:

AGB: Amounts Generally Billed for emergency or other medically necessary care to individuals who have insurance coverage.

Care Assurance/HCAP: A state-funded program that compensates hospitals that have a disproportionate share of charity patients who are at or below the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Emergency Care: Immediate care which is necessary to prevent putting the patient’s health in serious jeopardy, serious impairment to bodily functions, and/or serious dysfunction of any organs or body parts.

EMTALA: The federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, 42 USC 1395dd.

Financial Assistance: Healthcare services provided which are not expected to result in cash inflows; medically necessary services rendered without expected payment to individuals meeting established criteria. Wayne HealthCare’s Financial Assistance Program considers income and family size to determine a percentage discount off of gross hospital charges up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Income and family size are determined under the Hospital Care Assurance Guidelines.

FPG: Federal Poverty Guidelines as listed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, available at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty>.

Medically Necessary: Inpatient and outpatient hospital services or care rendered to a patient in order to diagnose, alleviate, correct, cure, or prevent the onset or worsening of conditions that endanger life, cause suffering or pain, cause physical deformity or malfunction, threaten to cause or aggravate a handicap, or result in overall illness or infirmity.

Residency: The patient must be living in Ohio voluntarily. This includes temporary residents, such as students, migrant workers, or illegal aliens, and persons who are temporarily residing with in-state relatives. Out-of-state patients who are on vacation, or any patient who has come to Ohio solely to receive medical care, are not considered residents.

Third Party Payer: Any private or public entity or program (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, or Commercial Insurance) that may be liable by law or contract to make payment to or on behalf of an individual for health care services. Third-party payer does not include a hospital or physician that provides services to the patient.

Uninsured: Patients with no insurance or third-party assistance to help resolve their financial liability to healthcare providers.

Urgent Care: Services necessary in order to avoid the onset of illness or injury, disability, death, or serious impairment or dysfunction if not treated within 12 hours.

IV. COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE:

Wayne HealthCare provides, without discrimination, care for emergency medical conditions to individuals regardless of whether they are eligible for assistance under this policy. Wayne HealthCare will not engage in actions that discourage individuals from seeking emergency medical care, such as by demanding that emergency department patients pay before receiving treatment for emergency medical conditions or by permitting debt collection activities that interfere with the provision, without discrimination, of emergency medical care. Emergency medical services, including emergency transfers, pursuant to EMTALA, are provided to all Wayne HealthCare patients in a non-discriminatory manner, pursuant to the Wayne HealthCare's EMTALA policy.

V. SERVICES ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Services eligible for financial assistance include emergency or urgent care, services deemed medically necessary by Wayne HealthCare, and, in general, care that is non-elective and needed in order to prevent death or adverse effects to the patient's health.

Radiologists, Anesthesia, and EKG Reading charges are not a part of Wayne HealthCare's Financial Assistance Program. Attached to this policy as **Appendix A** is a complete list of providers, in addition to Wayne HealthCare itself, delivering emergency or other medically necessary care at Wayne HealthCare that specifies which providers are covered by this policy and which are not covered.

VI. AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Uninsured Self-Pay Discount: Uninsured patients who do not qualify for free care (e.g., due to their household income) will receive a discount of **25%** off of gross charges for medically necessary services. The discount is based on policy effective date and not date of service. These patients are expected to pay their remaining balance for care, and may work with financial counselors to set up a payment plan based on their financial situation.

Financial Assistance Discount: Free care is provided only when care is deemed medically necessary and after uninsured patients have been found to meet all financial criteria, including household income at or below 100% FPG. If household income is over 100% FPG but at or below 200% FPG, then patients may receive a discount based on the sliding scale attached as **Appendix B**.

Uninsured patients may be assisted with applications for other means of payment or financial assistance (e.g., Medicaid, other local funding programs) before approval for financial assistance.

Uninsured patients who are believed to have the financial ability to purchase health insurance may be encouraged to do so in order to ensure healthcare accessibility and overall well-being.

Medically indigent persons who have income or assets above qualifications for any assistance programs but have catastrophic medical costs may be eligible for free or discounted care with the approval of Director of Patient Financial Services. Such individuals must complete a financial assistance application as described in Section VIII below.

Following a determination of eligibility under this policy, a patient eligible for financial assistance will not be charged more for emergency or other medically necessary care than the amounts generally billed to individuals who have insurance covering such care (AGB). Wayne HealthCare uses the Look-Back Method to determine AGB. Under this method, AGB is calculated by dividing the sum of all of its claims for emergency and other medically necessary care that have been allowed by Medicare fee-for-service and all private health insurers that pay claims to the hospital during a prior 12-month period by the sum of the associated gross charges for those claims. Wayne HealthCare will begin applying the AGB percentage by the 120th day after the end of the 12-month period used in the calculation. The current AGB percentage is 58%.

The calculated AGB determination amount will apply to the Medicare and Medicaid Cost Reports.

Wayne HealthCare does not bill or expect payment of gross/total charges from individuals who qualify for financial assistance under this policy.

VII. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

As stated above, patients who are uninsured or underinsured and have a household income within 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (shown in **Appendix B**) may receive free or discounted care.

When determining patient eligibility, Wayne HealthCare does not take into account race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, social status, immigrant status, or any other classification protected by federal, state or local laws.

Family: A “family” is defined by the Medicaid program in Chapter 5101:3-2-07.17. A “family” shall include the patient, the patient’s spouse (regardless of whether they live in the home), and all of the patient’s children natural or adoptive, under the age of eighteen who live in the home. If the patient is under the age of eighteen, the “family” shall include the patient, the patient’s natural or adoptive parent(s) (regardless of whether they live in the home), and the parent’s children natural or adoptive under the age of eighteen who live in the home. If the income of the spouse or parent who does not live in the home cannot be obtained, or the absent spouse or parent does not contribute income to the family, determination of eligibility shall proceed with the available income information, using the total family size. If the patient is the child of a minor parent who still resides in the home of the patient’s grandparents, the “family” shall include only the parent (s) and any of the parent (s) children, natural or adoptive who reside in the home. In determining appropriate family size, consider the following:

- a. If determining eligibility on a child and both parents are living in the home, whether they are married or not, both incomes are determined.
- b. If the live-in partner is not the child’s parent, his/her income would not be included.
- c. The income of grandparents or elderly parents living in the household is not to be considered.
- d. If determining a mother’s eligibility, child support for a child would not be included as income. Child support would only be included if determining eligibility for the child who is receiving child support and then only if the child support is received on a regular basis.
- e. If determining eligibility for an 18-year-old who lives with his/her parents, the parent’s income is not included (even if the individual is a full time student).
- f. If determining eligibility of an individual who has a child and a live-in partner, the income of the live-in is not considered because the couple is not married.

Income: Income is defined as total salaries, wages and cash receipts before taxes. For self-employed and farm employment individuals, receipts that reflect reasonable business expenses shall be counted.

- a. Other sources of income include, but not limited to, alimony, child support, veteran’s benefits, and unemployment compensation.
 - i. Child support as a form of income is not considered when the mother or the father is the patient. If the child is the patient, child support would be counted as income.
- b. An income tax return does not generally cover the date of service, which Ohio Administrative Code 5101:3-2-07.17 requires to be the basis for determining eligibility, and a tax return defines family and income differently. The tax return must be used as a form of documentation as a last resort and can only be used 1) if the patient’s date of service is in January and can represent the previous 12 month reporting period or 2) as proof of patient’s self-employment income.
 - i. If an income tax return must be used for proof of self-employment income, only the amount from the following lines on the tax return must be taken into consideration for the calculation:
 - a. Business Income or (Loss). Attach Schedule C or C-EZ.
 - b. Farm Income or (Loss). Attach Schedule F.
 - c. Rental real estate ONLY. Attach Schedule E.
 - ii. In the event that the individual is providing proof of household self-employment income and the patient and the spouse filed their tax returns Married Filing Separate, both tax returns should be taken into account for the calculation of income.
- c. A family’s or individual’s income and qualifying information submitted on the application for the date that these services were provided shall be determined one of 2 ways:
 - i. Using the income for every member of the “family” for the twelve months prior to date of service.
 - ii. Using the income for every member of the “family” for the three months prior to the date of service and multiplying by 4.

Revisions and Effective Dates: Internal policy changes cannot be implemented retroactively. A specific date must be chosen (usually the date listed on the revisions column above) on which to change its policy and all actions for dates of service on or after that date must be judged under the revised documentation standards.

VIII. HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Determinations for eligibility for free or discounted care will require patients to submit a complete financial assistance application (including all documentation required by application) and may require appointments or discussion with hospital financial counselors.

1. Hospital Care Assurance Program (HCAP) applications are given at all the registration areas and can be obtained by requesting them from the Patient Financial Services.
2. The hospital will routinely mail applications to patients who do not have insurance. The hospital will post signs in accordance with rules and regulations, and will notify patients of the Hospital Care Assurance and Financial Assistance Programs by adding a message to the effect on every patient statement.
3. The initial bill, and at least the first follow-up bill is accompanied by a written statement that does all of the following:
 - a. Explains that individuals with income at or below the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for services without charge.
 - b. Specifies the federal poverty guidelines for individuals and families of various sizes at the time the bill is sent.
 - c. Describes the post-billing procedures for determining the individual's income and canceling the charges if the individual is found to qualify for services.
 - d. The federal poverty guidelines and Hospital Care Assurance applications are available on the Wayne HealthCare website. (waynehealthcare.org)
4. The information required in the application can be obtained via personal interview, phone conversation, faxed information, and/or mail. A spouse, significant other or member of the immediate family may also provide this information via a personal interview. If unable to obtain the information from the patient due to his/her immediate medical condition, verbal documentation may occur as a last resort via the telephone with the spouse, significant other or a member of the immediate family.
 - a. If the applicant is someone other than the patient, the information on the application must be completed as to the applicant's name. This person should only be the person who is taking financial responsibility for the patient.
5. Verbal documentation of income is acceptable and should be detailed and complete. Applicants must cooperate in supplying information about health insurance, medical benefits, proof of income, or any requirement in order to complete the application. For Financial Assistance, the patient may be asked to supply a form of income documentation.
6. Examples of Household Gross Income per Month:
 - a. Salary (combined)
 - b. Child support/alimony
 - c. Farm or self-employment
 - d. Military Family allotment
 - e. Public assistance
 - f. Pensions or veteran's benefits
 - g. Social Security
 - h. Rental Income
 - i. Unemployment compensation
 - j. Grants
 - k. Workman's compensation
 - l. Investment income
 - m. Other
7. Acceptable forms of documentation may include the following:
 - a. Pay Stub
 - b. Bank Statement
 - c. Social Security Statement
 - d. Tax Return
 - e. Unemployment insurance payment stubs
 - f. Information on how patients are currently supporting themselves

8. All applications should be signed by the patient or by someone who has a legal right to represent. If a patient or applicant is physically unable to complete an application, or does not live in the vicinity of the hospital and is unable to return an application by mail, the hospital may complete the application via the telephone. This should be considered a last resort. The person interviewing the patient should complete all the questions on the application, sign and date it, and document why the patient or applicant was not able to complete and sign the application himself/herself.
9. If the application is taken by phone, the original application must be sent to the patient with a cover letter of explanation for their signature with a self-addressed return envelope. The account notes must be documented that the original application and cover letter were sent to the patient to obtain signature. A copy of the application should be maintained and filed until the signed form is returned. If the signed form is not returned within 30 days, the Patient Accounting Clerk must document the failed attempt for the collection of the signature in the account notes. Signature must be obtained before the account can be adjusted for HCAP eligibility.
10. Attestation of income and qualifying information submitted on the application shall be confirmed by signature.
11. Providing false or inaccurate information may serve to disqualify an applicant from receiving financial assistance from the hospital.
12. Patients covered under Medicaid do not qualify for this program; patients covered under the Disability Assistance or its successor program do qualify for this program.
13. Patients may apply for assistance at any time within three years from the date of the follow up notice/second data mailer. Within this time frame, if the individual qualifies for HCAP/Financial Assistance and the account has been placed with a collection agency, the agency should be notified to adjust the account due to HCAP/Financial Assistance eligibility.
14. Patients are deemed eligible by Patient Financial Services

The account will follow policy CC001 in regards to sending an account to collections. Patient's failing to respond will be considered delinquent and uncollectable after 240 days from the first statement date.

Claim Adjudication is as follows:

1. An HCAP application should be completed for each patient and is effective for ninety (90) days from initial date of service for **outpatient** services. **Eligibility for inpatients must be determined separately for each admission unless the patient is readmitted within 45 days of discharge for the same condition with the same diagnosis.** *The date of the application determines which Care Assurance/Financial Assistance policy guidelines will be followed.* Eligibility for recipients of the Disability Assistance program or its successor program must be verified on a monthly basis.
2. A completed application is reviewed and matched to the State guidelines for approval. There must be a signature on the application. The account(s) are adjusted to a zero balance by using the appropriate adjustment code. Once eligibility has been determined and charges are written off, self-pay payments that have been made on the account will first be applied to any open accounts that do not qualify for HCAP. HCAP self-pay payments will then be refunded to the patient. Charity self-pay payments will be refunded in accordance with the Billing and Collections Policy. If the charity account has been paid in full, payments will be applied to any outstanding balances.

IX. ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF NONPAYMENT:

The collection actions Wayne HealthCare may take if a financial assistance application and/or payment is not received are described in the Patient Billing and Collections Policy CC015. In brief, Wayne HealthCare will make certain efforts to provide uninsured patients with information about our financial assistance policy, such as including a summary of it with billing statements; before we or our collection vendors take certain actions to collect your bill (these actions include civil actions, garnishing wages, or reporting negative information to credit bureaus). Our collection vendors follow the guidelines of the IRS Rule 501r in regards to ECA (Extraordinary Collection Actions). Members of the public may obtain a free copy of the separate policy from Wayne HealthCare via the contact information listed below.

X. MEASURES TO WIDELY PUBLICIZE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABILITY:

Wayne HealthCare's financial assistance policy, financial assistance application, and summary of the financial assistance policy are available to patients in English.

A free copy of this policy will be available upon request at the cashier’s window at our facility at 835 Sweitzer St., Greenville, OH, and will be available by mail or by calling us at 937-547-5770 or it can be accessed online at www.waynehealthcare.org.

Wayne HealthCare communicates the availability of financial assistance through means which include:

- Posting signs within the facility
- Providing brochures
- Creating a document that summarizes the financial assistance policy in simple, easy to understand terms
- Providing copies of the policy and summary in multiple languages, as needed by members of the community and having interpreter services available to provide translation assistance
- Ensuring free copies of financial assistance policy can be obtained within the facility or by mail
- Posting information about financial assistance on Wayne HealthCare website
- Providing information about the policy and how to apply during verbal communication about the patients’ bill
- Ensuring designated staff are knowledgeable of the financial assistance policy and can answer patients’ questions

XI. HOSPITAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Patients concerned about their ability to pay for services or who would like to learn more about financial assistance should be directed to the Patient Financial Services Department as follows:

Phone: 1-800-589-2963 (toll free) OR 937-547-5770

Walk-in and Mailing Address:

Wayne HealthCare (walk-in – ask for cashier’s window)

Patient Financial Services Department

835 Sweitzer Street • Greenville, OH 45331

Website: www.waynehealthcare.org

Issue date:	Revision	Issued by::	Approved by:	Department Approved By:
2003		C Brant	P Emrick	Patient Financial Services
	2005	C Brant	P Emrick	Patient Financial Services
	2006	C.Brant	P Emrick	Patient Financial Services
	2011	C Brant	Shannon Everman	Controller
	2012	C Brant	Shannon Everman	Controller
	2013	C Brant	Dennis Lockard	CFO
	2014	P Emrick	Dennis Lockard	CFO
	2015	T Hoke		
	2017	CBRANT		
	09/01/18	CBrant		Patient Financial Services
	01/01/2019	Cbrant		Patient Financial Services
	01/17/2019	CBrant		Patient Financial Services
	02/06/2020	CBrant		Patient Financial Services
	08/01/2020	CBrant		Patient Financial Services
	01/19/2021	CBrant		Patient Financial Services
	04/04/2022	CByers		Patient Financial Services
	01/2023	Dawn Bunch		Patient Financial Services

APPENDIX A

PROVIDER LIST

The provider list is maintained in a separate document. The provider list is a list that includes the names of all providers, other than Wayne HealthCare itself, providing emergency or other medically necessary care in the hospital facility that specifies which providers are covered by this Hospital Care Assurance & Financial Assistance Policy and which are not covered.

In order to obtain a free copy of the list, please contact Wayne HealthCare as follows:

Website: www.waynehealthcare.org

Telephone: 937-547-5770

APPENDIX B

FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

Patients eligible for a financial assistance discount will receive the most generous discount of the sliding scale or AGB.

WHC SLIDING FEE SCHEDULE

2023 - SLIDING FEE SCHEDULE											
Ef 01/16/2023											
Family Size	100%	110%	120%	130%	140%	150%	160%	170%	180%	190%	200%
		90%	80%	Income 70%	Level 60%	as % of 50%	Poverty 40%	30%	20%	10%	
1	< or =	14,581	16,039	17,497	18,955	20,413	21,871	23,329	24,787	26,245	27,703
	14,580	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		16,038	17,496	18,954	20,412	21,870	23,328	24,786	26,244	27,702	29,160
2	< or =	19,721	21,693	23,665	25,637	27,609	29,581	31,553	33,525	35,497	37,469
	19,720	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		21,692	23,664	25,636	27,608	29,580	31,552	33,524	35,496	37,468	39,440
3	< or =	24,861	27,347	29,833	32,319	34,805	37,291	39,777	42,263	44,749	47,235
	24,860	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		27,346	29,832	32,318	34,804	37,290	39,776	42,262	44,748	47,234	49,720
4	< or =	30,001	33,001	36,001	39,001	42,001	45,001	48,001	51,001	54,001	57,001
	30,000	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		33,000	36,000	39,000	42,000	45,000	48,000	51,000	54,000	57,000	60,000
5	< or =	35,141	38,655	42,169	45,683	49,197	52,711	56,225	59,739	63,253	66,767
	35,140	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		38,654	42,168	45,682	49,196	52,710	56,224	59,738	63,252	66,766	70,280
6	< or =	40,281	44,309	48,337	52,365	56,393	60,421	64,449	68,477	72,505	76,533
	40,280	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		44,308	48,336	52,364	56,392	60,420	64,448	68,476	72,504	76,532	80,560
7	< or =	45,421	49,963	54,505	59,047	63,589	68,131	72,673	77,215	81,757	86,299
	45,420	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		49,962	54,504	59,046	63,588	68,130	72,672	77,214	81,756	86,298	90,840
8	< or =	50,561	55,617	60,673	65,729	70,785	75,841	80,897	85,953	91,009	96,065
	50,560	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		55,616	60,672	65,728	70,784	75,840	80,896	85,952	91,008	96,064	101,120
9	< or =	55,701	61,271	66,841	72,411	77,981	83,551	89,121	94,691	100,261	105,831
	55,700	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		61,270	66,840	72,410	77,980	83,550	89,120	94,690	100,260	105,830	111,400
10	< or =	60,841	66,925	73,009	79,093	85,177	91,261	97,345	103,429	109,513	115,597
	60,840	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		66,924	73,008	79,092	85,176	91,260	97,344	103,428	109,512	115,596	121,680
11	< or =	65,981	72,579	79,177	85,775	92,373	98,971	105,569	112,167	118,765	125,363
	65,980	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		72,578	79,176	85,774	92,372	98,970	105,568	112,166	118,764	125,362	131,960
12	< or =	71,121	78,233	85,345	92,457	99,569	106,681	113,793	120,905	128,017	135,129
	71,120	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		78,232	85,344	92,456	99,568	106,680	113,792	120,904	128,016	135,128	142,240
For each additional family member –											
Add	5,140	5,654	6,168	6,682	7,196	7,710	8,224	8,738	9,252	9,766	10,280