

SENECA HEALTHCARE DISTRICT POLICY

DEPARTMENT: FINANCE

POLICY TITLE: CHARITY CARE POLICY NUMBER: FIN-006.003

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT: CA Health and Safety

Code §127400, §127405, §127425; Assembly Bill 774;

Assembly Bill 1503; Senate Bill 1276

AUTHOR: Linda Wagner, RN, CEO

REVISED BY: Carlene Slusher, CPA, Director of Finance

Page 1 of 16

Date of Origin: 11/15/2007

Revision Date:

03/28/2013, 10/29/2015

Periodic Review

By: Date:

Policy Rescinded by

Policy #:

Effective Date:

Policy: Seneca Healthcare District (SHD) shall offer all patients charity care as applicable state and federal regulations dictate. Charity care is a *resource of last resort*.

Patients are expected to cooperate with SHD procedures for obtaining charity, other forms of payment or financial assistance, and to contribute to the cost of their care based on their individual ability to pay. This is in contrast to a bad debt which is defined as a patient and/or guarantor who, having the requisite financial resources to pay for health care services, has demonstrated by their actions an unwillingness to resolve the bill. Individuals with the financial capacity to purchase health insurance shall be encouraged to do so, as a means of assuring access to health care services, for their overall personal health, and for protection of their individual assets.

Partial and full charity care applications will be processed without concern for age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, disability, or national origin. SHD will provide, without discrimination, care for emergency medical conditions to individuals regardless of their eligibility for financial or government assistance.

Authorization	Signature	Date
Department Head		
Medical Department Chair	N/A	
Compliance Officer		
Chief Nursing Officer	N/A	
Administration		
Medical Chief of Staff	N/A	
Governing Board		

POLICY NUMBER REFERENCE: FIN-006.003

PROCEDURE

1. Charity Care Policy

a. Purpose

The purpose of the Charity Care policy is to define the eligibility criteria for charity care assistance and to provide proper guidelines for identifying, qualifying, and applying charity care to patient(s) account(s). Charity Care Application is Attachment B.

b. Eligible Services

- i. **Covered:** Emergency medical services, general acute care hospital services and rural health clinic services.
- ii. **Not Covered:** Elective procedures/surgeries/services, cosmetic services, and skilled nursing services.

c. Charity Care Criteria

i. All homeless and/or uninsured patients are referred to SHD's patient financial specialist for assistance with acquiring insurance or applying for charity care.

ii. Eligibility

- 1. Services eligible under this Policy will be made available to the patient on a sliding fee scale, in accordance with financial need, as determined in reference to Federal Poverty Levels (FPL) in effect at the time of determination (Attachment A).
- 2. Gross income should fall within established standard for determination of the FPL, considering family size, geographic area and other pertinent factors.
- 3. Family size will be considered. For this purpose, "Family" is defined, for an adult patient as spouse, domestic partner, and dependent children under the age of 21, whether living at home or not. For patients under the age of 18, "Family" is defined as the patient's parent(s) and/or caretaker relatives and other children under 21 years of age of the parent or caretaker relative.
- 4. If a dependent child is over the age of 18 and does not appear on a parent or caretaker's most recent tax return, the dependent child must provide a copy of their own most recent tax return.
- 5. Patients whose family income is at or below 150% of the FPL are eligible to receive charity.
- 6. Patients whose family income is above 150% but not more than 250% of the FPL are eligible to receive reduced rates, based on a sliding fee scale, on a case-by- case basis.
- 7. Patients whose family income exceeds 250% of the FPL may be eligible to receive reduced rates on a case-by-case basis based on their specific circumstances, such as catastrophic illness or medical indigence, at the discretion of SHD.
- 8. Other financial obligations, including living expenses and other items of a reasonable and necessary nature will be analyzed.
- 9. Patients whose out-of-pocket medical expenses exceed 10% of their prior 12 months of income may be eligible for financial assistance at the discretion of SHD.
- 10. Charity status will be determined by the Director of Finance and CEO, after the time of discharge and after all required documentation is submitted by the patient or responsible party.

- 11. Once the account is settled, the information used for determination will be kept on file by SHD for at least seven (7) years.
- 12. Patients who are not eligible for financial assistance or are eligible to receive partial assistance which leaves them owing a balance due to SHD may request a payment plan from SHD's patient financial specialist.
- 13. Patients who are a victim of a crime could be eligible for State of California funding from the Victim of Crime (VOC) program. Patients can apply at the District Attorney's office at the courthouse in Quincy. The patient will not qualify if:
 - a. There is insurance involved:
 - b. He/she initiated the crime;
 - c. He/she expires.

iii. Patients with Insurance

- 1. Medi-Cal Share of Cost recipients do not qualify for Charity Care as their financial responsibility has been predetermined through the Medi-Cal assessment process.
- 2. Inpatient days denied by Medi-Cal as not medically necessary become eligible for Charity Care if the denial is upheld following SHD appeal. The Medi-Cal denied day(s) will be adjusted for purposes of stating the "uncollectible" as the charity care amount in preference to inflating the Medi-Cal allowance.
- 3. Patients with Medicare and commercial HMO/PPO coverage are eligible for Charity Care. If these patients have large out of pocket expenses they will be considered and approved for charity care if they meet all financial requirements. No discount will be applied to the remaining portion of the patient's claim until after their primary and any secondary insurance payments and contractual adjustments are applied.

iv. Presumptive Financial Assistance

- 1. A patient financial specialist or admissions representative will assist uninsured patients to apply for Hospital Presumptive Eligibility.
- 2. For patients aged 65 and over, SHD's patient financial specialist will assist the patient with completing and submitting a Date Preservation form or initial Medi-Cal application.

d. Specific Procedure:

i. Identification

- 1. Candidates for Charity Care can be identified at any point along the patient revenue cycle. Every effort shall be made to identify eligibility during the service period.
- 2. Initial referrals may be directed to the patient financial specialist or the business office.
- 3. The patient/guarantor is instructed regarding the application process and is provided SHD's Charity Care Application to complete.
- 4. Notes related to patient conversations/encounters and application information is documented in the appropriate system by SHD staff.

ii. Pending Applications

- 1. The application for charity care and all supporting documentation completed by the patient are thoroughly researched and reviewed.
- 2. A review of insurance, lack thereof, and identification of any other potential payer source is conducted.

- 3. Pages 5 and 6 of the application are completed by a SHD representative in the finance department.
- 4. The patient financial counselor follows up to obtain any additional information needed by phone or by sending letters requesting documentation. If, after three (3) documented contacts have been attempted and the 150th day from application is exceeded without receipt of the requested information, the application is documented as denied in the Electronic Medical Record system, closed, and the account released from hold status to resume processing as a Self-Pay receivable per protocol.
- 5. Charity care applications are reviewed by the patient financial specialist or appropriate SHD personnel per the approved Write Off Matrix (Attachment C).
- 6. Authorized employees must sign their approval or denial and reason for determination on the application. Authorized employees must assure that reasonable efforts have been made to assure that alternative resources are not available to cover the cost of services.
- 7. The file will then be returned to the patient financial specialist to process any authorized write-offs and send the Eligibility Determination Notice (Attachment E) to the patient.
- 8. The patient financial record with eligibility determination will be archived for no less than 7 years.

iii. Denied Applications

- 1. An Eligibility Determination Notice (Attachment E) is mailed to the address submitted during the application.
- 2. A request for appeal of a final determination must be made in writing to the SHD Compliance Committee within 30 days of the final determination. An independent review of the patient or guarantor's financial information will be performed and the patient/guarantor will be notified of the review outcome within 30 days.
- 3. The patient's financial class reverts to Self-Pay and the account is processed as a Self-Pay receivable per protocol. Patients may request a payment plan from the patient financial specialist (Attachment D.)

2. **Enforcement**

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination as outlined in the Sanctions policy, ADMIN28.

Reference:

California Hospital Association. (2015.) Hospital Financial Assistance Policies and Community Benefit Laws; Second Ed. California Hospital Association; Sacramento CA

Eastern Plumas Healthcare. (December 2014.) Charity Care Policy.

Iacino, J. (December 4, 2014.) SB 1276: Hospital Fair Billing Practices (Charity Care and Discount Payment Plans.) California Department of Public Health.

Plumas District Hospital. (December 2014.) Charity Care Policy.

Rowert, K. (November 19, 2014.) *AB 774 Reporting Requirement Changes*. Office of the Statewide Health Planning and Development; Accounting and Reporting Systems Section.

Charity Care Application – Spanish (FIN-FORM-002, not attached)

Attachments:

Attachment A: Federal Poverty Limit Guidelines (1 page) *updated annually

Attachment B: Charity Care Application (FIN-FORM-001, 6 pages)

Attachment C: Write-Off Matrix (1 page)

Attachment D: Financial Policy Handout (1 page)

Attachment E: Eligibility Determination Notice (1 page)

Attachment A: Federal Poverty Limit Guidelines

*This attachment updated annually



ALL STATES (EXCEPT ALASKA AND HAWAII) AND D.C.

ANNUAL GUIDELINES

FAMILY					PERCENT	OF POVERTY	GUIDELINE				
SIZE	100%	120%	133%	135%	140%	145%	150%	175%	185%	200%	250%
1	11,770.00	14,124.00	15,654.10	15,889.50	16,478.00	17,066.50	17,655.00	20,597.50	21,774.50	23,540.00	29,425.00
2	15,930.00	19,116.00	21,186.90	21,505.50	22,302.00	23,098.50	23,895.00	27,877.50	29,470.50	31,860.00	39,825.00
3	20,090.00	24,108.00	26,719.70	27,121.50	28,126.00	29,130.50	30,135.00	35,157.50	37,166.50	40,180.00	50,225.00
4	24,250.00	29,100.00	32,252.50	32,737.50	33,950.00	35,162.50	36,375.00	42,437.50	44,862.50	48,500.00	60,625.00
5	28,410.00	34,092.00	37,785.30	38,353.50	39,774.00	41,194.50	42,615.00	49,717.50	52,558.50	56,820.00	71,025.00
6	32,570.00	39,084.00	43,318.10	43,969.50	45,598.00	47,226.50	48,855.00	56,997.50	60,254.50	65,140.00	81,425.00
7	36,730.00	44,076.00	48,850.90	49,585.50	51,422.00	53,258.50	55,095.00	64,277.50	67,950.50	73,460.00	91,825.00
8	40,890.00	49,068.00	54,383.70	55,201.50	57,246.00	59,290.50	61,335.00	71,557.50	75,646.50	81,780.00	102,225.00

For family units of more than 8 members, add \$4,160 for each additional member.

MONTHLY GUIDELINES

FAMILY					PERCENT (OF POVERTY	GUIDELINE				
SIZE	100%	120%	133%	135%	140%	145%	150%	175%	185%	200%	250%
1	980.83	1,177.00	1,304.51	1,324.13	1,373.17	1,422.21	1,471.25	1,716.46	1,814.54	1,961.67	2,452.08
2	1,327.50	1,593.00	1,765.58	1,792.13	1,858.50	1,924.88	1,991.25	2,323.13	2,455.88	2,655.00	3,318.75
3	1,674.17	2,009.00	2,226.64	2,260.13	2,343.83	2,427.54	2,511.25	2,929.79	3,097.21	3,348.33	4,185.42
4	2,020.83	2,425.00	2,687.71	2,728.13	2,829.17	2,930.21	3,031.25	3,536.46	3,738.54	4,041.67	5,052.08
5	2,367.50	2,841.00	3,148.78	3,196.13	3,314.50	3,432.88	3,551.25	4,143.13	4,379.88	4,735.00	5,918.75
6	2,714.17	3,257.00	3,609.84	3,664.13	3,799.83	3,935.54	4,071.25	4,749.79	5,021.21	5,428.33	6,785.42
7	3,060.83	3,673.00	4,070.91	4,132.13	4,285.17	4,438.21	4,591.25	5,356.46	5,662.54	6,121.67	7,652.08
8	3,407.50	4,089.00	4,531.98	4,600.13	4,770.50	4,940.88	5,111.25	5,963.13	6,303.88	6,815.00	8,518.75

Produced by: CMCS/CAHPG/DEEO

2016 DUAL ELIGIBLE STANDARDS

	Qualifed Benef (QN	iciary	Medicare E	ow-Income Beneficiary MB)	Qualifying Individuals (QI)		Qualified Disabled Working Individuals (QDWI)	
	Single	Couple	Single	Couple	Single	Couple	Single	Couple
Income:								
All (Except AK & HI)	1,001	1,348	1,197	1,613	1,345	1,813	4,009	5,395
Alaska	1,247	1,680	1,492	2,012	1,676	2,261	4,992	6,725
Hawaii	1,150	1,548	1,375	1,853	1,545	2,083	4,602	6,195
Resources:	\$7,280	\$10,930	\$7,280	\$10,930	\$7,280	\$10,930	\$4,000	\$6,000



Seneca Healthcare District Charity Care Application

Instructions:

- Prior to completing an application for Charity Care, the patient is referred to Seneca Healthcare District's patient financial specialist (PFS) for application for insurance through Covered California.
- The following documents are required to be submitted with your completed SHD Charity Care Application (copies only, originals will not be returned):
 - Patient must apply to Covered California and/or Medi-Cal. Eligibility or denial for insurance coverage must be presented to SHD within 30 days of receipt.
 - · Copies of 3 (three) most recent pay stubs from all employers
 - If unemployed, a copy of unemployment benefits award letter or pay stub within the last 30 days
 - Copy of most recent income tax return
 - Copy of most recent bank statement(s)
 - Copy of most recent rent/mortgage receipt
 - Copy of most recent utility bills
- 3. Return completed application to either:

Seneca Healthcare District
P.O. Box 1460
Chester, CA 96020
Attn: Finance Department

Seneca Healthcare District
C/O: HRG
12610 E. Mirabeau Pkwy., Suite 900
Spokane Valley, WA 99216
Attn: CBO Department Supervisor

Or it may be delivered in person at Seneca Healthcare District, 199 Reynolds Road, Chester, CA

- 4. SHD will complete the remainder of the application, including a review of the patient's outstanding accounts receivable for prior services rendered and the patient's payment history, and notify the patient of the determination in writing within 90 days of receipt of a completed application.
- If you have questions or need assistance in completing this application, please contact our Patient Accounts Department at 866-567-8936 or the onsite Patient Financial Specialist at 530-259-3591.

FIN-FORM-001-001-CharityCareApplicationPacket (2015)

Page 1 of 6



Seneca Healthcare District Charity Care Application

		PATIENT INF	FORMATION		
Date of Request:			Social Security Num	ber:	
Patient Name:					
Telephone Numbe	r:				
Address:			(street)		
If Minor; Guardian	. Name:		Guardian Social Sect	unty 	
			Last Day Worked:		
Do you have?	□Medi-Cal	□Medicare	□Other Insurance	□Uninsured	
f uninsured, have	you applied for N	Tedi-Cal/Covered Ca	alifornia? 🗖 Yes	□N ₀	
		FAMILY INF	ORMATION		
Spouse's Name:					
Spouse's Name: Spouse's Employer:				e	
List all dependents					
NAME	,	AGE	RELATIONSH	IP	
		A COPT INTO	DMATION		
Bank Name:		ASSET INFOI Account Number		Balance: \$	
		_			
		—		. D-1 Φ	
		_			
Other Assets:					



Seneca Healthcare District Charity Care Application

Application Continued:				
	INCOM	ME INFORMATION		
Earned Income (If patien	nt is a minor list parer	nt(s)/guardian(s) income)		
Patient's Gross Income:	\$		□Bi-Weekly	□Weekly
Spouse's Gross Income:	\$	•	□Bi-Weekly	□Weekly
Other Income			-	-
Unemployment:	\$	(select one) □Monthly	□Annually	
Social Security:	\$		□Annually	
Dividends/Annuities:	\$		□Annually	
Rental Property:	\$	(select one) □Monthly	□Annually	
Other (explain):	\$	(select one) □Monthly	□Annually	
Total Monthly Income:	\$	Total Annual Income:	\$	
(Total of Gross Income, Sp	vouse Gross Income,	and Other Income)		
	EXPENS	SES INFORMATION		
I am a (select one): □Re	nter □Homeow	meryears 1	Monthly Paymer	nt: \$
		residence? □Yes □No I		ıt: \$
		Iodel:		
		Iodel:		
		Monthly Payme		
Credit Card: Balance \$	Limit \$	Monthly Payme	nt \$	
Monthly Utility Bills: \$	Avera	age Monthly Food Bill: \$		
Are you current on all abo	ve payments? □Yes	: □No		
(Please attach additional :	sheets if necessary to	include additional credit/p	ersonal loan/me	dical obligations)
Total Monthly Expenses	: \$			
		v income, please describe ho	ow you are meet	ing your expenses
, , , ,	, ,		,	0, 1
FIN-FORM-001-001-CharityCare	Application Packet (2015))		Page 3 of 6



Seneca Health	heare District Charity Care Application
Patient Disclosure Report:	
Account Number(s):	
The purpose of this information request is to de Seneca Healthcare District or your possible elimformation is not an application for Medi-Cassistance program. Seneca Healthcare District's a copy of these applications upon request. If your California, or County Medical Financial Assistant form.	gibility for our Charity Care Policy. This Cal, Covered California, or any County patient financial specialist will provide you u have been denied by Medi-Cal, Covered
I (print be true and correct. I agree and acknowledge to me with the option to apply for health insura Health Benefit Exchange, Healthy Families Covered California, and/or any other applicable understand Seneca Healthcare District reserves including a credit check. I agree to notify the Buinformation within 10 (ten) days of the change.	nce under Medicare, Medi-Cal, California Program, California Children's Services, State or County funded health coverage. I the right to verify all information supplied,
I UNDERSTAND THAT UNTIL CHARITY STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FULL SENECA HEALTHCARE DISTRICT.	
If you have any questions, please call the S Specialist at 530-259-3591 or 866-567-8936.	eneca Healthcare District Patient Financial
	- D
Signature of Patient/Responsible Party	Date
Signature of Spouse	Date
Seneca Healthcare District Representative	Date
FIN-FORM-001-001-CharityCareApplicationPacket (2015)	Page 4 of 6

Attachment B: Charity Care Application – Page 5



Seneca Healthcare Div	strict	Seneca Healthcare Di	strict (Charity Care A	pplication
	Assessment Worksheet: ice Use Only **				
Patient Nan	ne:				
Account:	D.O.S:	Total Charges:	\$	Balance:	\$
Account:	D.O.S:	Total Charges:	\$	Balance:	\$
Account:	D.O.S:	Total Charges:		Balance:	\$
Account:	D.O.S:	Total Charges:		Balance:	\$
Account:	D.O.S:	Total Charges:		Balance:	\$
If all docur	If unemployed, copy of ur Copy of most recent incor Copy of most recent bank Copy of most recent rent/i Copy of most recent utility	ecent pay stubs from all emp nemployment benefits award ne tax return statement(s) mortgage receipt 7 bills d with the application or a	letter or		
FIN-FORM-001	-001- CharityCareAppli cationPack	ret (2015)			Page 5 of 6



Sonce Rathbar Dance	Seneca Healthcare District Charit	y Care Application
Financial Assessment Worksheet C ** For Office Use Only **	ontinued:	
	Summary	
Family Size: Gross Annual Family Income: Less Federal Poverty Guideline: Adjusted Gross Annual Family Income Cost Share Scale Percentage C÷B: Percentage Discount Applicable:	\$ (A) \$ (B) [@ 150% for F	amily Size]
	Cost Share Scale	
Percentage of Adjusted Gross Annual Income to Federal Poverty Guidelines Less than or equal to zero (≤ 0%) One to thirty-three (1% - 33%) Thirty-four to sixty-six (34% - 66%) Sixty-seven to one hundred (67% - 100 Greater than one hundred (> 100%)	Percentage Discount for C One hundred percent (100 Seventy-five percent (75% Fifty percent (50%)	%)
Worksheet Prepared By:		
Signature	Printed Name	Date
APPROVAL/DENIAL		
Approved: Denied: Reason		
Charity Care Amount Approved: \$		
Accounts to apply charity care write of Account: Amount: \$_Amount: \$_Amount	Date of write off:	Initials Initials Initials Initials Initials Of Finance
If total amount of charity care approve		or r manico
Signature	Printed Name	Date
FIN-F ORM-001-001- Charity Care Application Pado	et (2015)	Page 6 of 6

Attachment C: Write Off Matrix

	Estimated or Actual Amount
Director of Finance	Up to and including \$5,000
Chief Executive Officer	Above \$5,000

^{*}Amounts shown are maximum per account or combined account balance.

Attachment D: Financial Policy Handout



Financial Policy

Seneca Healthcare District (SHD) is committed to providing the highest quality of patient care within a framework of sound fiscal management. To attain this objective, patients requesting services at SHD are expected to pay for their portion of estimated charges for care provided at the time services are rendered.

All out-of-pocket payment amounts for non-emergent or elective services are expected at the time of service unless previous payment arrangements have been made. This includes deductibles, co-insurance amounts, and co-payments.

Payment Options

SHD works with each patient individually on their account balances. Here are some payment options available to you:

- We are happy to accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover (both debit and credit). Money orders, cashier's checks, traveler's checks, and personal checks are also accepted.
- You can pay online using a credit or debit card.
- You can pay over the phone using a credit or debit card by calling our customer service department at (866) 567-8936.
- If paying in full at the time of service, you will receive a 20% discount and your insurance will not be billed.

Payment Plans

Upon request, a patient may be eligible to establish a payment plan based on the guidelines below. If you are unable to pay your bill in full, please contact our patient financial specialist at (530) 259-3591 for additional information and to discuss your options.

- \$0 to \$50 balance Pay in Full
- \$51-\$100 balance-\$50/month(2 month max pay off)
- \$101-\$200 balance-\$75/month(3 month max pay off)
- \$201-\$1,000 balance-\$100/month
- \$1,001-\$2,000 balance-\$150/month
- Balance over \$2,001 Balance divided by 12 months
- Any balances that cannot be paid in full within 12 months as detailed above will require approval
 from SHD's Director of Finance.

FIN-FORM-003-002-SelfPayHandout

2015-09-28

Attachment E: Eligibility Determination Form



ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION FOR CHARITY CARE PROGRAM

Seneca Healthcare District has conducted an eligibility determination for SHD's Charity Care Program for:(Patient's Name) for the following accounts and dates of service:
Account: DOS: Account: DOS: Account: DOS: Account: DOS: Account: DOS:
The request of charity care program assistance was made by the patient or on behalf of the patient on This determination was completed on
Based on the information supplied by the patient or on behalf of the patient, the following determination has been made:
Your request for Charity Care has been approved for services rendered on with a balance on account of \$ If partial charity care was approved and a remainder balance remains due, our office will need to be informed as to how your account balance will be satisfied. Please contact our patient financial specialist at (530) 259-3591 to make arrangements.
Your request for Charity Care is pending approval. However, the following information is required before any adjustment can be applied to your account:
Your request for Charity Care has been denied because:
If you have any question on this determination, please contact Carlene Slusher, Director of Finance at (530) 258-3099.
Thank you,
Seneca Healthcare District Finance Department
FIN-FORM-004-001-EligibilityDeterminationNotice 2015-10-1