

Status **Active** PolicyStat ID **6109839**

Implementation 11/2006

Last Reviewed 08/2019

Effective 08/2019

Last Revised 08/2019

Next Review 08/2024

 Owner **Ryan Thompson:**
 SVP Chief
 Revenue Cycle
 Officer
Policy Area **Mission Services**
 Applicability **Providence**
Systemwide

PSJH-MISS-100 Charity Care/Financial Assistance

Executive Sponsor:	Gregory Hoffman, SVP, Interim Chief Financial Officer
Policy Owner:	Ryan E Thompson, SVP Chief Revenue Cycle Officer
Contact Person:	Kelly Kikuchi, Executive Director, Financial Counseling
Scope: This policy applies to Providence and its Affiliates (collectively known as "Providence") ¹ and their caregivers (employees); employees of affiliated organizations. This is a governance level policy, vetted by the Executive Council (EC), with a recommendation for approval by the Audit and Compliance Committee of the Board of Directors (ACC), and approved/signed by the appropriate delegate.	
Purpose: To reflect the commitment of Providence to provide medically necessary healthcare services to all individuals regardless of their ability to pay.	
Definitions: None.	
Policy: Providence will provide medically necessary health care services to members of the community who are unable to pay for such services. The determination of financial assistance will be based on the patient's ability to pay consistent with eligibility criteria established by Providence. Charity care does not include bad debt or contractual shortfalls from government programs, but may include insurance co-payments, deductibles or both. As part of this commitment, Providence shall provide a discount to uninsured patients for medically necessary services. Providence will offer a standard discount of total charges to uninsured patients who do not otherwise qualify for financial assistance under this policy for emergency and medically necessary care. The uninsured discount will be automatically applied to the account upon initial billing to the uninsured patients.	
Requirements:	

1. Providence shall develop charity care/financial assistance policies including eligibility criteria, and application and financial counseling processes.
2. Charity care/financial assistance policies and application procedures shall be made available to the public.
3. The recognition of an individual's need for financial assistance can occur any time from pre-admission review to final collection; however effort should be made to establish eligibility prior to service.
4. The ability of an individual to pay should be determined based on verified financial need.
5. In instances where full charity care is not warranted, Providence may provide alternative payment arrangements.
6. Providence shall develop collection practices consistent with its Mission and Core Values.
7. Each Providence institution should report annually to the System CFO on charity care services and other community benefit services.

The above requirements are administered by Providence Revenue Cycle through defined procedures and processes.

References:

None.

Attachments:

No attachments.

Applicability:

¹For purposes of this policy, "Affiliates" is defined as any not-for-profit or non-profit entity that is wholly owned or controlled by Providence, Providence St. Joseph Health (PSJH), Providence Health & Services, St. Joseph Health System, Western HealthConnect, Kadlec, Covenant Health Network, Grace Health System, Providence Global Center*, NorCal HealthConnect, or is a not-for-profit or non-profit entity majority owned or controlled by PSJH or its Affiliates and bears the Providence, Swedish Health Services, St. Joseph Health, Covenant Health, Grace Health System, Kadlec, or Pacific Medical Centers names (includes Medical Groups, Home and Community Care, etc.). *Policies and/or procedures may vary for our international affiliates due to regulatory differences.

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Policies Coordinator	Cynthia Johnston: Compliance Spec PSJH	08/2019

Contact Person	Kimberly A. Sullivan: SVP Chief Revenue Cycle Officer [TT]	08/2019
Contact Person	Tracey Tsihlakis: Exec Dir Rev Cycle Admin PSJH	08/2019
Policy Owner Approval	Kimberly A. Sullivan: SVP Chief Revenue Cycle Officer [TT]	08/2019