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Indiana University Health Financial Assistance		

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Financial Assistance Policy is to establish consistent guidelines for providing Financial Assistance to all qualifying Indiana University Health ("IU Health") Insured Patients and Uninsured Patients, regardless of their ability to pay for services.

II. SCOPE

This Policy applies to hospital facility charges incurred by eligible patients under this Policy receiving care, including emergent and/or medically necessary services, rendered at the following IU Health hospital locations:

- IU Health Academic Health Center (Methodist, University, Riley, Morgan, and Saxony)
- IU Health Arnett Hospital
- IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital
- IU Health Bedford Hospital
- IU Health Blackford Hospital
- IU Health Bloomington Hospital
- IU Health Frankfort Hospital
- IU Health Jay Hospital
- IU Health North Hospital
- IU Health Paoli Hospital
- IU Health Tipton Hospital
- IU Health West Hospital
- IU Health White Memorial Hospital
- Any newly integrated IU Health hospital facility since the last update of this Policy.

This policy does not cover charges for services rendered by individual providers.

III. EXCEPTIONS

Any exceptions to this Policy must be approved by the Financial Assistance Committee.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Amounts Generally Billed (AGB): The amounts generally billed for emergency or other medically necessary care to individuals who have insurance covering such care.

Assets: Any tangible or intangible item owned and/or controlled by a patient or their guarantor which has monetary value.

Emergent Care: Care for patients with a medical condition that merits immediate treatment and/or admission to an IU Health hospital facility via its Emergency Department, a non-elective direct admission, or transfer from another hospital facility

Extraordinary Collection Actions (ECA): Actions against a patient or guarantor taken by IU Health or its agents related to obtaining payment for care covered under this Policy that involve selling a patient or guarantor's outstanding Patient Responsibility to another party, reporting adverse information about the patient or guarantor to a consumer credit reporting agency or credit bureau, or a legal or judicial process.

Federal Poverty Level (FPL): Guidelines developed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services on an annual basis. Levels are determined by the number of members in an individual's household and their annual income.

Financial Assistance: A reduction in the amount of Patient Responsibility incurred by a patient or their guarantor who is eligible for assistance under this Policy.

Financial Assistance Application: A formal application completed by the patient or their guarantor for Financial Assistance.

Financial Assistance Committee: A panel comprised of Revenue Cycle Services team members responsible for reviewing appeals of Financial Assistance Determinations and certain requests for Financial Assistance.

Financial Assistance Determination: A grant or denial of Financial Assistance made under this Policy.

Gross Charge: The full, established price for medical care that the hospital facility consistently and uniformly charges patients before applying any contractual allowances, discounts, or deductions.

Hardship: An inability or significant difficulty to pay reasonable and necessary living expenses.

Household: All individuals listed on a patient's, or their guarantor's, federal income tax filing. Guarantors of a minor dependent who do not claim the dependent on their federal taxes may submit a court decree as proof of the dependent's household status. In the event the patient or guarantor's income does not warrant the filing of a federal tax statement, the patient or guarantor may submit an affidavit attesting to the foregoing.

Income: Interest, dividends, wages, compensation for other services, tips, pensions, fees for earned services, price of goods sold, income from rental property, gains on sale of other property, alimony, or royalties.

Indiana Resident: Any individual who was domiciled in Indiana at the time of approval and can provide documentation that meets the requirements for obtaining an Indiana license outlined in Indiana Administrative Code 140 IAC 7- 1.1-3, or an Indiana driver's license.

Insured Patient: A patient who has a commercial insurance product, a government insurance/assistance product, or a previous contract or agreement negotiated with IU Health to which the patient is a contemplated party or beneficiary.

Medically Necessary Care: Health care services or supplies needed to prevent, diagnose, or treat an illness, injury, condition, disease, or its symptoms and that meet accepted standards of medicine.

Non-Covered Service: A health care service or supply not included in an Insured Patient's current insurance coverage and for which the patient has not negotiated a contract or agreement with IU Health for payment of the service.

Patient Responsibility: The portion of charges for which the patient is responsible, including any applicable coinsurance, co-pays, deductibles, and charges for non-covered services.

Underinsured Patient: An Insured Patient for whom it would be a financial or personal Hardship to fully pay the Patient Responsibility as determined by this policy.

Uninsured Patient: A patient who lacks a commercial insurance product, a government insurance/assistance product, or a previous contract or agreement negotiated with IU Health to which the patient is a contemplated party or beneficiary.

V. POLICY STATEMENTS

A. General

1. IU Health will not refuse, delay or discourage emergent and/or medically necessary services based on a patient's ability to pay for the cost of such services in accordance with the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA).
2. Financial Assistance Determinations will be made without regard to a patient's age, race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, ancestry, and familial status.

3. IU Health will actively promote awareness of the availability of Financial Assistance to all patients.
- B. Discounts Outside of the Financial Assistance Policy
1. IU Health may offer additional reductions in the cost of care not specifically defined within this Policy. These discounts are not reported as financial assistance on Schedule H of IU Health's Form 990.
 2. Uninsured Patients receiving care from an IU Health employed physician whose services are not covered by this Policy may receive a discount applied to their physician charges.
- C. Amounts Generally Billed Discount for Uninsured Patients
1. Financial Assistance via a reduction in Patient Responsibility to the Amounts Generally Billed is available to all Uninsured Patients presenting for services at an IU Health hospital location.
 2. This discount will be automatically applied and no Financial Assistance Application is required.
- D. Discount for Patients Receiving Non-Covered Services
1. IU Health may extend Financial Assistance via a reduction in Patient Responsibility to Insured Patients receiving Non- Covered Services, as follows:
 - a. Seventy-five percent (75%) reduction for Insured Patients with documented awareness that they knowingly received Non-Covered Services;
 - b. One hundred percent (100%) reduction for Insured Patients who were not documented knowingly receiving Non-Covered Services;
 2. IU Health may apply the reduction after receiving a claim denial for reasons of non-coverage or at the patient's request, assuming the patient qualifies for Financial Assistance under this Section D.
 3. Insured Patients are not required to apply for Financial Assistance for Non-Covered Services.
- E. Financial Assistance due to Financial Hardship
1. To be eligible for Financial Assistance due to financial Hardship under this Policy, a patient or guarantor must:
 - a. Submit a completed Financial Assistance Application with all supporting documentation and be approved in accordance with this Policy;
 - b. Be an Indiana Resident as defined in this Policy; and
 - c. If Uninsured, consult with a member of IU Health's Financial Counseling department to determine if health care coverage may be obtained from a government insurance or assistance product, the Health Insurance Marketplace, or from any other source of coverage.
 - a. Financial Assistance due to financial Hardship is only available for encounters where care was initiated via: (1) an eligible facility's emergency department; (2) direct admission from a physician's office; or (3) transfer from another hospital facility.
 - b. The FPL income threshold under this section is as follows:

# of Adults in Household*	# of Dependents in Household	FPL Income Threshold
1 or more	0	200%
2 or more	1 or more	250%
1	1 or more	300%

*In some instances, an adult will also qualify as a dependent. When this occurs, IU Health will treat the adult as a dependent for purposes of the FPL calculation.

F. Financial Assistance due to Personal Hardship

1. In order to be eligible for Financial Assistance due to personal Hardship under this Policy, a patient or guarantor must:
 - a. Submit a completed Financial Assistance Application with all supporting documentation and be approved in accordance with this policy;
 - b. Be an Indiana Resident as defined in this policy; and

- c. If Uninsured, consult with a member of IU Health's Financial Counseling department to determine if health care coverage may be obtained from a government insurance or assistance product, the Health Insurance Marketplace, or from any other source of coverage.
 2. An Uninsured or Underinsured patient or their guarantor may be eligible for Financial Assistance if the patient's outstanding Patient Responsibility exceeds 20% of the patient's or their guarantor's annual household income.
 3. If approved, the patient's balance will be reduced to 5% of the patient or guarantor's annual household income or the Amounts Generally Billed, whichever is less.
- G. Eligibility Period
 1. If approved for Financial Assistance by IU Health under Sections IV.E-F, the patient will be guaranteed financial assistance for treatment related to the underlying condition, for which the patient was originally screened and approved, through the remainder of the calendar year.
 2. As a condition of extending the ongoing Financial Assistance, the patient must comply with requests from IU Health to verify that the patient continues to meet the conditions for qualification.
- H. Appeals and Assistance Granted By the Financial Assistance Committee
 1. The Financial Assistance Committee will review and make determinations on all requests for appeals related to Financial Assistance. If a patient or guarantor seeks to appeal a Financial Assistance Determination, a request must be submitted, along with any additional information or requested supporting documentation, if applicable.
 2. The Financial Assistance Committee will review requests for and may grant additional Financial Assistance, including but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Assistance to patients who are seeking treatment that can only be provided in Indiana by IU Health or who would benefit from continued medical services from IU Health for continuity of care;
 - b. Care approved by the IU Health Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or CMO of an IU Health facility or region, including medically necessary non-elective services for which no payment source can be identified;
 - c. Care provided when it is known no payment source exists;
 - d. International humanitarian aid; and
 - e. Other care identified by the Financial Assistance Committee that fulfills the IU Health Mission.
 3. All decisions of the Financial Assistance Committee are final.
- I. Presumptive Eligibility
 1. A Financial Assistance Application is not required to receive Financial Assistance under this Presumptive Eligibility section.
 2. IU Health will deem patients or their guarantors presumptively eligible for Financial Assistance if they are found to be eligible for one of the following programs and the patient received medically necessary treatment initiated via (1) an eligible facility's emergency department; (2) direct admission from a physician's office; or (3) transfer from another hospital facility:
 - a. Medicaid (any state)
 - b. Indiana Children's Special Health Care Services
 - c. Healthy Indiana Plan
 - d. Patients who are awarded Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE)
 - e. A state and/or federal program that verifies the patient or guarantor's gross household income meets the FPL income threshold.
 3. IU Health will conduct a quarterly review of all accounts placed with a collection agency partner for at least one hundred and twenty (120) days after the account is eligible for an ECA as set forth in this Policy. If the patient or guarantor's individual scoring criteria demonstrates the patient has a low likelihood and/or propensity to pay or no credit, the patient or guarantor may be deemed presumptively eligible for Financial Assistance.

4. Financial Assistance may additionally be granted in the following circumstances:
 - a. If the patient or their guarantor is found to have filed a petition for bankruptcy.
 - b. If the patient is deceased and found to have no estate.
 - c. If the patient is deceased and was under 21 years of age at the time of death.
- J. Exhaustion of Alternate Sources of Assistance
 1. Patients may be required to exhaust all other state and federal healthcare coverage assistance programs prior to receiving Financial Assistance due to financial or personal Hardship under this Policy including, but not limited to, Medicaid.
 2. Patients who may be eligible for coverage under an applicable health insurance policy must exhaust all insurance benefits.
 - a. This includes patients covered under their own policy and those who may be entitled to benefits from a third-party policy.
 - b. IU Health may request patients show proof that such a claim was properly submitted to the appropriate insurance provider before awarding Financial Assistance.
 3. Eligible patients who receive medical care from an IU Health facility as a result of an injury proximately caused by a third party, and later receive a monetary settlement or award from said third party, may receive Financial Assistance for any outstanding balance not covered by the settlement or award.
 4. In the event Financial Assistance has already been granted in the above circumstances, IU Health reserves the right to reverse the Financial Assistance Determination in an amount equal to the amount IU Health would be entitled to receive had no Financial Assistance been awarded.
- K. Patient Assets
 1. There are situations where a patient or their guarantor may have significant income or assets available to pay for healthcare services such as a legal settlement. The Financial Assistance Committee may evaluate the income or assets in determining financial Hardship.
 2. IU Health may require a list of all property owned by the patient or guarantor and adjust a Financial Assistance Determination as a result.
- L. Calculation of Charges for Patients Eligible for Financial Assistance
 1. IU Health limits the hospital facility charges billed to patients eligible for Financial Assistance due to financial Hardship to not more than the AGB at the respective IU Health hospital facility where the patient received services.
 2. IU Health employs the look-back method as the basis for calculating the AGB at each IU Health hospital facility. The AGB is based on the annual average reimbursement received from all commercial health insurers and Medicare fee-for-service.
 3. The AGB is calculated annually, unique for each separately licensed IU Health hospital facility covered by this Policy, and available on the IU Health website.
 4. The methodology of the above calculation and/or the AGB for an individual hospital facility is available free of charge upon a written request submitted via email to FinancialAssistance@IUHealth.org
Or a call to Financial Counseling toll-free at 1-888-531-3004

VI. PROCEDURES

- A. Publication of the Availability of Financial Assistance to the Community
 1. IU Health will take the following actions to ensure the availability of Financial Assistance under this Policy is widely publicized:
 - a. Post this Policy, a Plain Language Summary of this Policy, and the Financial Assistance Application on its website.
 - b. Provide patients with a Plain Language Summary of this Policy during registration and/or discharge.
 - c. Post conspicuous displays in appropriate acute care settings such as emergency departments and registration areas describing the available assistance and directing eligible patients to the Financial Assistance Application.

- d. Include a conspicuous written notice on all patient post-discharge billing statements notifying the patient about this Policy and the telephone number of the Customer Service Department which can assist patients with questions regarding this Policy.
- e. Make available Customer Service representatives via telephone during normal business hours.
- f. Mail copies of this Policy, a Plain Language Summary of this Policy, and a Financial Assistance Application to patients or their guarantor free of charge upon request.
- g. Broadly communicate this Policy as a part of its general outreach efforts.
- h. Educate patient-facing team members on this Policy and the process for referring patients to the program.

B. Financial Assistance Application

1. Financial Assistance Applications must include the following documentation:
 - a. All sources of Income for the Household or the Guarantor for the last three (3) months, including at least one of the following:
 - i. Most recent three (3) months of pay stubs or Social Security Benefits;
 - ii. Most recent state and federal tax returns, complete with all Schedules; or
 - iii. Most recent W-2 statement;
 - b. Most recent three (3) statements from checking and savings accounts, certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds and money market accounts.
 - c. In the event the patient or guarantor's income does not warrant the filing of a federal tax statement, the individual may submit an affidavit attesting to the foregoing.
 - d. If applicable, divorce/dissolution decrees and child custody order.
- b. Patients or their guarantors wishing to apply for Financial Assistance due to financial Hardship are encouraged to submit an Application within ninety (90) days of discharge. Patients or their guarantors may submit an Application up to two-hundred and forty (240) days from the date of their initial post-discharge billing statement from IU Health, however, accounts may be subject to ECA as soon as one-hundred and twenty (120) days after receipt of the initial post-discharge billing statement.
 - a. Patients or their guarantors submitting an incomplete Financial Assistance Application will receive written notification of the Application's deficiency upon discovery by IU Health. The Application will be pended for a period of forty-five (45) days from the date the notification is mailed.
 - b. IU Health will suspend any ECA until the Application is complete or the expiration of the forty-five (45) day period.
- c. Patients with limited English proficiency may request a copy of this Policy, a Financial Assistance Application, and a Plain Language Summary in one of the below languages:
 - a. Arabic;
 - b. Burmese;
 - c. Burmese - Falam;
 - d. Burmese - Hakha Chin;
 - e. Mandarin/Chinese; or
 - f. Spanish
- d. The patient, and/or their representative, such as the patient's physician, family members, legal counsel, community or religious groups, social services or hospital personnel may request a Financial Assistance Application be mailed to a patient's primary mailing address free of charge.
- e. IU Health maintains the confidentiality of all Financial Assistance Applications and supporting documentation.
- f. IU Health will deny or revoke Financial Assistance for any patient or guarantor who falsifies any portion of a Financial Assistance Application.

C. Financial Assistance Determinations

1. After receiving a completed Application and all requested documentation, IU Health will inform patients or guarantors of the results of their Application by providing the patient or guarantor with a Financial Assistance Determination within ninety (90) days.
2. A patient's Financial Assistance Application and Financial Assistance Determination are specific to each date(s) of service and approved related encounters.
3. If a patient or Guarantor is granted less than full charity assistance and the patient or guarantor provides additional information for reconsideration, Revenue Cycle Services may amend a prior Financial Assistance Determination.

D. Extraordinary Collection Actions

1. IU Health may refer delinquent patient accounts to a third-party collection agency after utilizing reasonable efforts to determine a patient's eligibility for assistance under this Policy.

Reasonable efforts include the following:

- a. IU Health will notify the patient of this Policy at least thirty (30) days prior to initiating an ECA.
 - b. IU Health will not initiate an ECA for at least one-hundred and twenty (120) days after the patient's initial post-discharge billing statement.
 - c. IU Health will review all Financial Assistance Applications received up to and including two-hundred and forty (240) days after the patient's initial post-discharge billing statement. IU Health will cease any ECAs it has initiated upon receipt of a Financial Assistance Application until a Financial Assistance Determination is made under this Policy.
 - d. If an Application is approved, IU Health will issue a revised statement, issue refunds, and make reasonable efforts to reverse ECAs as necessary.
2. IU Health and its third-party collection agencies may initiate an ECA against a patient or their guarantor in accordance with this Policy and 26 C.F.R. § 1.501(r). ECAs may include the following:
 - a. Selling a patient or their guarantor's outstanding financial responsibility to a third party.
 - b. Reporting adverse information about the patient or their guarantor to consumer credit reporting agencies or credit bureaus.
 - c. Deferring or denying, or requiring a payment before providing, medically necessary care because of a patient or their guarantor's nonpayment of one or more bills for previously provided care covered under this Policy.
 - d. Actions requiring a legal or judicial process, including but not limited to:
 - i. Placing a lien on a patient's or their guarantor's property
 - ii. Foreclosing on a patient's or their guarantor's real property
 - iii. Attaching or seizing a patient's or their guarantor's bank account or other personal property
 - iv. Commencing a civil action against a patient or their guarantor
 - v. Causing a patient or guarantor's arrest
 - vi. Causing a patient and/or guarantor to be subject to a writ of body attachment
 - vii. Garnishing a patient or guarantor's wages
 3. When it is necessary to engage in such action, IU Health and its third-party collection agencies, will engage in fair, respectful and transparent collections activities.

E. Refunds

1. Patients eligible for Financial Assistance under this Policy who remitted payment to IU Health in excess of their Patient Responsibility will be alerted to the overpayment as promptly after discovery as is reasonable given the nature of the overpayment.
2. Patients with an outstanding account balance due on a separate account will have their refund applied to the outstanding balance.
3. Patients without an outstanding account balance described above will be issued a refund check for their overpayment as soon as technically feasible.

VII. CROSS REFERENCES

Screening and Transfer of Emergency or Unstable Patients

VIII. REFERENCES/CITATIONS

None

IX. FORMS/APPENDICES

[IU Health Financial Assistance Application Form](#)

X. APPROVAL BODY, IF APPLICABLE

None