

Texas Nonprofit Hospitals *
Part II
Summary of Current Hospital Charity Care Policy and Community Benefits
for Inclusion in DSHS Charity Care Manual as Required
by Texas Health and Safety Code, § 311.0461**
-2009-

Facility Identification (FID): 410500	(Enter 7-digit FID# from attached hospital listing)***
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Name of Hospital: St. Joseph Regional Health Center **County:** BRAZOS

Mailing Address: 2801 Franciscan Drive Bryan, TX 77802

Physical Address if different from above: _____

Effective Date of the current policy: 11/01/2008

Date of Scheduled Revision of this policy: _____

How often do you revise your charity care policy? Revised Annually

Provide the following information on the office and contact person(s) processing requests for charity care.

Name of the office/department: Patient Access - Admitting/Patient Registration Services

Mailing Address: 2801 Franciscan Drive Bryan, TX 77802

Contact Person: Mark Riggins Title: Patient Access Director

Phone: (979) 776-5968 Fax: (979) 776-5649 E-Mail mriggins@st-joseph.org

Person completing this form if different from above:

Name: Pam Braun Phone: (979) 821-7622

* This summary form is to be completed by each nonprofit hospital. Hospitals in a system must report on an individual hospital basis. Public hospitals, for-profit hospitals participating in the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program and exempt hospitals are not required to complete this form. This form is also available in Word or PDF formats at DSHS web site: www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hosp under 2009 Annual Statement of Community Benefits Standard.

** The information in the manual will be made available for public use. Please report most current information on the charity care policy and community benefits provided by the hospital.

*** The list is also available on DSHS web site: www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hosp/.

I. Charity Care Policy:

1. Include your hospital’s Charity Care Mission statement in the space below.

As part of its mission, St. Joseph Regional Health Center provides care to patients without financial means to pay for hospital services. Charity care will be provided to all patients who present themselves for emergent or non-elective care at St. Joseph Regional Health Center without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin and who are classified as financially or medically indigent.

2. Provide the following information regarding your hospital’s current charity care policy.

a. Provide definition of the term **charity care** for your hospital.

Charity care means the unreimbursed costs to the hospital of providing, funding, or otherwise financially supporting health care services to patients classified by the hospital as financially or medically indigent.

b. What percentage of the federal poverty guidelines is financial eligibility based upon? Check one.

- 1. <100%
- 2. <133%
- 3. <150%
- 4. <200%
- 5. Other, specify See Comments Section

c. Is eligibility based upon net or gross income? Check one.

d. Does your hospital have a charity care policy for the Medically Indigent?

YES NO IF yes, provide the definition of the term **Medically Indigent**.

Medically indigent is a term used to describe individuals who cannot afford needed health care because of insufficient income and/or lack of adequate health insurance.

e. Does your hospital use an Assets test to determine eligibility for charity care?

YES NO If yes, please briefly summarize method.

Assets taken into account for gross income are: Any property other than homestead, Vehicles > \$5,000, Income producing property, checking accounts, savings accounts, cert. of deposits, stocks and bonds, 401K, IRA, and recreational vehicles.

f. Whose income and resources are considered for income and/or assets eligibility determination.

- 1. Single parent and children
- 2. Mother, Father and Children
- 3. All family members
- 4. All household members
- 5. Other, please explain _____

g. What is included in your definition of income from the list below? Check all that apply.

1. Wages and salaries before deductions
2. Self-employment income
3. Social security benefits
4. Pensions and retirement benefits
5. Unemployment compensation
6. Strike benefits from union funds
7. Worker's compensation
8. Veteran's payments
9. Public assistance payments
10. Training stipends
11. Alimony
12. Child support
13. Military family allotments
14. Income from dividends, interest, rents, royalties
15. Regular insurance or annuity payments
16. Income from estates and trusts
17. Support from an absent family member or someone not living in the household
18. Lottery winnings
19. Other, specify _____

3. Does application for charity care require completion of a form? YES NO

If YES,

a. **Please attach a copy of the charity care application form.**

b. How does a patient request an application form? Check all that apply.

1. By telephone
2. In person
3. Other, please specify By Mail

c. Are charity care application forms available in places other than the hospital?

YES NO If YES, please provide name and address of the place.

In the rural clinics, including Franklin, Hearne, Caldwell, Centerville, Somerville, Madisonville, Lexington and Normangee. Also in the Grimes St. Joseph Health Center located in Navasota and in our Rehab facility in Bryan.
in answer above

d. Is the application form available in language(s) other than English?

YES NO

If yes, please check

4. When evaluating a charity care application,

a. How is the information verified by the hospital?

- 1. The hospital independently verifies information with third party evidence (W2, pay stubs)
- 2. The hospital uses patient self-declaration
- 3. The hospital uses independent verification and patient self-declaration

b. What documents does your hospital use/require to verify income, expenses, and assets?

Check all that apply.

- 1. W2-form
- 2. Wage and earning statement
- 3. Pay check remittance
- 4. Worker's compensation
- 5. Unemployment compensation determination letters
- 6. Income tax returns
- 7. Statement from employer
- 8. Social security statement of earnings
- 9. Bank statements
- 10. Copy of checks
- 11. Living expenses
- 12. Long term notes
- 13. Copy of bills
- 14. Mortgage statements
- 15. Document of assets
- 16. Documents of sources of income
- 17. Telephone verification of gross income with the employer
- 18. Proof of participation in govt assistance programs such as Medicaid
- 19. Signed affidavit or attestation by patient
- 20. Veterans benefit statement
- 21. Other, please specify Property Tax Statement

5. When is a patient determined to be a charity care patient? Check all that apply.
- a. At the time of admission
 - b. During hospital stay
 - c. At discharge
 - d. After discharge
 - e. Other, please specify _____
6. How much of the bill will your hospital cover under the charity care policy?
- a. 100%
 - b. A specified amount/percentage based on the patient's financial situation
 - c. A minimum or maximum dollar or percentage amount established by the hospital
 - d. Other, please specify _____
7. Is there a charge for processing an application/request for charity care assistance?
- YES NO
8. How many days does it take for your hospital to complete the eligibility determination process?
- 2
9. How long does the eligibility last before the patient will need to reapply? Check one.
- a. Per admission
 - b. Less than six months
 - c. One year
 - d. Other, specify Per patient visit, excluding recurring OP visits who are evaluated monthly
10. How does the hospital notify the patient about their eligibility for charity care?
Check all that apply?
- a. In person
 - b. By telephone
 - c. By correspondence
 - d. Other, specify _____
11. Are all services provided by your hospital available to charity care patients?
- YES NO
- If NO, please list services not covered for charity care patients (e.g. transplant services, ER services, other outpatient services, physician's fees).
- Scheduled, non-emergent procedures (as determined by a physician) are eligible for the charity care process ONLY if approved by the Vice President of Medical Services or a member of hospital administration. Otherwise, the hospital works with the patient to secure coverage through other avenues.
12. Does your hospital pay for charity care services provided at hospitals owned by others?
- YES NO

II. Community Benefits Projects/Activities:

Provide information on name, brief description (3 lines), target population or purpose (3 lines) for each of the community benefits projects/activities CURRENTLY being undertaken by your hospital (example: diabetes awareness).

1. Tobacco Cessation Program Description ? Counseling and literature is offered to all hospital inpatients who have used tobacco products in the last year. Target Population ? All hospital inpatients receive literature and counseling. 2. Heart Disease Education and Prevention Description ? An annual low-cost blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol screening program (HeartScore) provides valuable information about heart disease prevention. Test results are sent to patients through the mail, along with information on heart health education seminars. The Heart Aware program provides specialized education and risk factor profiles for the community. Target Population ? Residents of the seven-county Brazos Valley area are eligible for the HeartScore and Heart Aware screening programs. 3. Childhood Immunization Promotion Description ? We co-sponsor with Brazos County Health Department, the Shots for Tots program, a monthly free immunization program. Immunization education is provided at local school districts, day care facilities, physician offices, and other health agencies. Target Population ? We primarily target Brazos Valley residents that are the parent, guardian or caregiver of children ages birth to twelve. 4. Increased Access to Primary Care Description ? The Madison, Grimes, and Burleson Health Resource Center continue operation in Madison, Grimes and Burleson Counties. Target Population ? Residents of Madison, Leon, Grimes, and Burleson Counties currently receive services from the Health Resource Centers. The network is making plans for expansion into Robertson County. 5. Diabetes Education Description ? A certified diabetes educator teaches a bi-monthly diabetes education course (Wellness for Diabetes) for diabetics. This course provides information on nutrition, glucometer usage and disease management. Community health education seminars promoting diabetes awareness are also offered in and around the Brazos Valley. A hospital representative also serves on the Diabetes Coalition, which presents ?Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes?, a five-week class series for diabetics. Target Population ? Residents of the seven-county Brazos Valley area receive information about the courses.

Additional Information:

Use this space if more space is required for comments or to elaborate on any of the information supplied on this form. Please refer to the response by question and item number.

Sec I, item 2b.: The following Charity discounts will be applied based on the federal poverty guidelines (FPG): Income < 200% of FPG = 100% Charity Income < 210% of FPG = 90% Charity Income < 220% of FPG = 80% Charity Income < 230% of FPG = 70% Charity Income < 240% of FPG = 60% Charity Income < 250% of FPG = 50% Charity Catastrophic Charity Patients whose annual income exceed the annual income guidelines to qualify for charity, but have a hospital bill greater than 50% of their annual income may qualify for catastrophic charity. The patient will be required to pay 10% of their annual income towards the hospital bill and the remainder of the bill will be written off to charity. Catastrophic Charity applies to a catastrophic hospital stay, not a culmination of several hospital visits over an extended period of time. Sec I, item 2c.: eligibility is based on gross income; however, persons are qualified for 100% charity if currently enrolled in the TDHHS Food Stamp Program, or the TANF Program. Sec I, item 3: No Financial Assistance application/form is required for patients qualifying based on the charity policy impoverished zip code guidelines.

