

**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\*\***  
**-2011-**

<b>Facility Identification (FID):</b> 4373555	(Enter 7-digit FID# from attached hospital listing)***
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**Name of Hospital:** Swisher Memorial Hospital **County:** Swisher

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 808, Tulia Texas 79088

**Physical Address if different from above:** 539 SE 2nd street, Tulia Texas 79088

**Effective Date of the current policy:** 10/1/2010

**Date of Scheduled Revision of this policy:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How often do you revise your charity care policy?** Reviewed annually

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

Name of the office/department: Business Office

Mailing Address: PO BOX 808, Tulia Texas 79088

Contact Person: Cindy Hernandez Title: Business Office Manager

Phone: (806) 995-8241 Fax: (806) 995-1041 E-Mail: chernandez@swisherhospital.com

Person completing this form if different from above:

Name: Dee Jon Douglass Phone: (806) 995-8268

\* 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](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hosp) under 2010 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/](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hosp/).

## I. Charity Care Policy:

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

In keeping with the mission and values of Swisher Memorial Healthcare District, patients who are uninsured will be treated fairly and with respect at all times, regardless of their age, sex, race, creed, color, national origin, or ability to pay. Also, to maintain compliance with the Texas Health & Safety Code pertaining to Indigency Program.

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

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

Swisher Memorial Hospital offers discounts to patients who demonstrate an inability or limited ability to pay for the medically necessary services they require. These programs require the completion of an application and providing proof of household income, cash, assets and family size. There are several classifications used for these programs, Financial Indigence, Medical Indigence, Uninsured Charity, Prompt Pay, and Payment Arrangements. Exhibit C shows the flow of these policies and their application discounts.

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

1. <100%                       4. <200%  
 2. <133%                       5. Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. <150%

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**.

A medically indigent patient is a person whose medical or hospital bills after payment by third-party payors exceed a 30% percent of the patient's annual gross income, determined in accordance with the hospital's eligibility system, and the per

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

YES  NO If yes, please briefly summarize method.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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

YES  NO

If yes, please check

Spanish  Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

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

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?
- 3
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 6 months
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).
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).

Shattered Dreams: Program for high school kids to teach about drinking and driving. Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Planning: work with all the community on being prepared for community disaster. Car seat and bicycle helmet: Target for parents with small children to show how to properly use car seats and safety in bike riding. Snak pak for kids: Addresses childhood hunger in our schools to provide weekend meal replacements Community Wellness: Wellness center targeted at seniors exercising Blood pressure check and glucose check at Seniors Center: Targeted at all health but mainly seniors

### **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.