

SUBJECT **INDIGENT AND CHARITY CARE**

PURPOSE To provide care to patients experiencing economic hardship.

POLICY Patients may qualify for a charity care discount based upon individual criteria.

If a physician on staff believes that a non-insured, indigent patient is need of care that cannot be delayed, the Business Office Manager or Administrator will be given the information to review and free or reduced-price care may be offered.

Patients will be asked to provide their previous year tax return and a current pay stub. Patients' income will be compared to the current National Poverty Level Sliding Scale. If a patient's income is at or below the National Poverty Level, the procedure may be performed as charity care. If the patient's income is one to two times the National Poverty Level, a fifty percent discount may be offered.

Patients presenting through a community program offering free or reduced care will not be considered for a charity care discount.