

POLICY # 53.06

SUBJECT: PUBLIC VIEWING AND POSTING OF HOSPITAL CHARGES

POLICY:

It is a policy of The Valley Hospital to allow the public to view, and make available, in a machine-readable format, a list of its standard charges in compliance with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Section 2718 (e) of the Public Health Service Act.

PURPOSE:

This policy is designed to promote transparency for patients and to ensure compliance with the ACA.

PROCEDURE:

I. ESTIMATES/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- A. The Hospital will respond to inquiries by patients interested in receiving an estimate of their out of pocket financial responsibility for Hospital services. Patients may contact the Patient Financial Services Department at (201) 291-6080 for assistance. Patients with health insurance will be directed to contact their health plan for specified financial obligations. Patients without health insurance will be provided information related to the Hospital's financial assistance policies.
- B. Any estimates provided will be an average charge for the service without complications. The information provided is not a quote or guarantee of what the charges will be for a specific patient's care, nor does it include the cost of professional services provided by physicians, anesthesiologists, radiologists, advance practice nurses, physician assistants or other independent practitioners.


II. CHARGE TRANSPARENCY

- A. The Hospital will make public a list, in a machine-readable format, of its standard charges for items and services, as well as average charges by Diagnostic Related

Group (DRG), on the Hospital web -site. In addition, the Hospital will make available its standard charges upon request.

1. Charges are subject to change, but will be updated at least yearly in accordance with requirements of ACA.
 2. In addition, the Patient Financial Services Department will provide patients the ability to view charges in its administrative offices. Appointments can be scheduled during the business hours of 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 201-291-6080, Monday through Friday, with the exception of holidays when the Department is closed. A designated representative from the Patient Financial Services Department will be available during those hours to assist the public in accessing the information.
 3. This policy prohibits the public from replicating, photocopying, scanning the Hospital's standard charge information when on-site.
- B. Charges posted on the internet site, or provided by staff will be for gross charges, prior to any applicable insurance being applied, for the service without complications. As with estimates for financial assistance, information provided is not a quote or guarantee of what the charges will be for a specific patient's care, nor does it include the cost of professional services provided by physicians, anesthesiologists, radiologist, advance practice nurses, physician assistance or other independent practitioners.

RESPONSIBILITY: Sr. Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Finance



Audrey Meyers
President and Chief Executive Officer

EFFECTIVE: 10/22/14

Revised: 12/14/18

Reviewed: 12/18

Reference: Affordable Care Act (ACA), Section 2718(e)