

Policy Name: Public Viewing of Hospital Charges
Effective Date: 10/01/2014

This policy allows the public to view Harrisburg Medical Center, Inc. standard charges in compliance with the Affordable Care Act, Section 2718(e) of the Public Health Service Act. It is intended to promote transparency for patients to understand their potential financial liability for services obtained at our hospital and to allow comparison for similar services across hospitals.

However, hospital charge masters are lengthy and complex documents and do not provide information at a level conducive for this purpose. Therefore, additional information, as outlined below, will be provided to patients seeking price estimates.

- I. Definitions. Hospital charges are the amounts set before any discounts. Hospitals are required by the federal government to utilize uniform charges as the starting point for all bills.

Charges are based on what type of care was provided and can differ from patient to patient for the same service depending on any complications or different treatment provided due to the patient's health. Therefore, actual charges for a specific patient will differ from the listed standard charges.

- II. Estimates/Financial Assistance. Many patients that will seek hospital charge information are interested in knowing what their out-of-pocket financial responsibility will be. This is an opportunity to have important conversations regarding finances. Those with health insurance will be directed to contact their health plan for specific financial obligations. Those without health insurance will be provided information related to the hospital's Financial Assistance Policy, the Hospital Uninsured Patient Discount Act and any other discounts (e.g. prompt pay) that could be applied.

Requests for specific price estimates should be directed to the Financial Counselor in the Patient Accounts department for further assistance.

- III. Viewing Charges: The public may view this information by appointment Monday through Friday during regular office hours. To schedule an appointment contact the Financial Counselor in the Patient Accounts department. Data will be available in an electronic view-only format data and may be reviewed onsite.
- IV. Educational Documents: A patient handout, "Request to View Hospital Standard Charges", is available to the public.