



Patient Financial Services

252.436.1546
fax - 252.436.1439

MARIA PARHAM
MEDICAL CENTER

566 Ruin Creek Road
P.O. Box 59
Henderson, NC 27536

252.438.4143
www.mphosp.org

Charity Care Policy

Purpose:

To establish procedures to assure that all patients who are eligible for financial assistance are treated in an orderly and consistent manner and are not discriminated against on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, gender or handicap. It is the mission of Maria Parham Medical Center to provide urgent or emergent (non-elective) health care services to those residents of the Four County Network area who require such care regardless of their ability to pay.

Policy:

Recognizing its charitable mission, it is the policy of the Medical Center to provide a reasonable amount of its services without charge to eligible patients who cannot afford to pay for care.

All emergent or urgent medically necessary services of this facility will be available as uncompensated services.

Charity is defined as the demonstrated inability of a patient to pay, versus bad debt as the unwillingness of the patient to pay. Charity Care does not include bad debt, contractual adjustments or non-covered costs. The financial status of each patient should be determined so that an appropriate classification and distinction can be made between charity and bad debt.

Charity care includes services provided to:

- Patients who do not have adequate income to pay for services based on Federal poverty guidelines.
- Patients whose coverage is inadequate to cover a catastrophic situation.
- Persons whose income is sufficient to pay for basic living costs but not medical care
- Persons with generally adequate incomes who are suddenly faced with catastrophically large medical bills.
- Patients who demonstrate ability to pay part but not all of their liability.

Applications are available by calling 252-436-1546, stopping by Patient Financial Services and asking for a Financial Counselor, or visiting the Maria Parham Medical Center website.

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