

Hospital Discounted Care Newsletter



Introduction

This newsletter provides information and updates on the implementation of [House Bill \(HB\) 21-1198](#), Health Care Billing Requirements for Indigent Patients, otherwise known as Hospital Discounted Care. Low-income patients who aren't enrolled in Health First Colorado or Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) will be given the opportunity to apply for financial assistance or charity care programs at the health care facility where they receive care.

Please visit our [Hospital Discounted Care webpage](#) for more information.

Hospital Discounted Care Updates

[New Uniform Application and Updates to Operations Manual](#)

A new version of the Uniform Application has been uploaded to the [Hospital Discounted Care website](#), Version 1.2. Please begin using this version immediately. There was a Version 1.1 that was uploaded, but a couple errors were detected before the announcement was able to be made.

There have been a handful of updates to the Operations Manual, also available on the website. A list of the sections that have been updated is located at the beginning of the manual. The following section is information on one of the bigger updates.

[Income Determinations made at Clinics](#)

The Department has recently received questions about income determinations for patients completed at CACP Clinics and whether those could be used at a hospital for Hospital Discounted Care. The Department has reviewed this request in terms of what is beneficial both to patients and to providers and has decided that hospitals will be allowed to accept income determinations for patients made at CACP Clinics as well as any Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Federally Certified Rural Health Clinic (RHC).

Hospitals that choose to accept an income determination from one of these facilities may use the patient's card or other income determination document issued by the clinic to fill out the Uniform Application for the household. The hospital will be allowed, with the patient's permission, to contact the clinic to obtain any information not included on the card that is necessary for the Hospital Discounted Care application, including but not limited to the monthly or annual income for the household as well as information on any other household members that were included in the application but not listed on the card. The hospital can accept both verbal and written information from the clinic to complete the patient's application as long as

clear documentation is contained within the application as to how the information was obtained. A copy of the card or other income determination from the clinic must be included in the Hospital Discounted Care application. This along with documentation of the additional information from the clinic will meet the documentation requirements for the Uniform Application.

Providers should continue to match the eligibility end dates of the original clinic determination for the household's HDC eligibility. As always, an uninsured CICIP client who does not want to have HDC added to their account would need to sign the Decline Screening form. If a hospital does not want to accept a card from a CICIP clinic and/or an income determination/rating from a FQHC or RHC for an uninsured patient, a screening and application will need to be completed or a Decline Screening form will need to be collected.

The Department appreciates these questions and suggestions from providers, and will continue to evaluate changes that can be made to make Hospital Discounted Care run as smoothly as possible for patients and providers alike.

Office Hours Extended through Mid-November

Office Hours have been extended and will be running for an hour each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. beginning October 19 through November 16. The link to access the Zoom meeting is available on the [Hospital Discounted Care website](#) along with the call in information if needed. There is no registration requirement for Office Hours.

Stay Informed

Sign up for the Hospital Discount Care newsletter to stay informed about the implementation of HB 21-1198.

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