

**MURPHY MEDICAL CENTER, INC.**

<b>DEPARTMENT: Business Office/Patient Accounts</b>	<b>SUBJECT: Charity Care</b>
RELATED TO: JCAHO: NCR&R  OSHA:	<b>ISSUE DATE: 09-97    REVISED: 03-09</b> <b>REVIEW DATE:</b> <b>Page : 1</b>
APPROVED SIGNATURE/S:	

**PURPOSE:**

This policy outlines the Murphy Medical Center, Inc. intent to provide urgently needed services regardless of the patient's ability to pay and the rules for granting reductions in the financial obligations for those services.

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of Murphy Medical Center, Inc. to provide urgently needed services regardless of the patient's ability to pay.

Services will be provided only at the direction of a member of the Hospital's Medical/Dental Staff. The determination that services are urgently needed will be made by the Attending Physician.

Patients who are determined by the Hospital to be unable to pay for services rendered, and who are determined to have no access to other sources of payment from any government agency or private insurance, may apply for and be granted relief from responsibility for a portion or all of amounts owed for services rendered by Murphy Medical Center, Inc.

Criteria for determining whether a patient is eligible will be determined by the Hospital and may be amended from time to time. Such criteria will be written and made a part of this policy as Attachment A.

Patients who are determined by Murphy Medical Center, Inc. to meet the criteria for a reduction in the financial obligations for services rendered will be notified in writing of the reduction of their obligation.

All amounts granted as reductions in patient financial obligations will be written off and eliminated from the patient's accounts. A record of all such write-offs will be maintained by Murphy Medical Center, Inc.

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR INDIGENT (CHARITY) PATIENTS**

Patients who wish to receive reductions for all or part of their financial obligation must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible.

1. For total write-off, income cannot exceed 100% of the Poverty Income Guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. (See Poverty Income Schedule attached)
2. A house and one acre would be exempt from inclusion of assets if they do not exceed \$35,000 in tax value. Anything greater would exclude the patient from consideration for eligibility for total write-off.
3. For partial reductions, income cannot exceed 150% of the Poverty Income Guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. Reduction for these accounts will be based on Medicaid DRG for in-patient and Medicaid outpatient reimbursement rate for outpatient accounts. Payment arrangements will be established for balances due.
4. Other requests will be considered on an individual basis, and all extenuating circumstances will be evaluated, such as extensive medical bills or the patient's inability to be gainfully employed. These claims will be reviewed by the Business Office Manager and approved by the Chief Financial Officer.
5. Any charges billed by Murphy Medical Center, Inc. will be eligible.
6. All patients/guarantors/guardians requesting to be eligible for a reduction of their financial obligation must complete fully and sign an Application for Indigent (Charity) write-off.
7. Only patient balances remaining after the patient/guarantor/guardian has exhausted all efforts to obtain coverage from programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, liability, etc. as directed by the Business Office personnel are eligible for write-off. Refusal to apply or to fully complete the application and provide the requested information will eliminate eligibility for Indigent (Charity) write-off.