

Stephens County Hospital

POLICY TITLE: Financial Assistance Program (Indigent Care Program / Charity)

EFFECTIVE DATE: January, 1975

LATEST REVISION DATE: December, 2015

LATEST REVIEW DATE: April, 2017

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain the requirements patients need to meet to qualify for financial help with their hospital bill(s) through the Stephens County Indigent Care Program and/or the Georgia Indigent Care Program.

II. POLICY & PROCEDURE

A. Patients who are residents of the State of Georgia can apply for this program.

Patients covered by Medicare are not eligible for this program. Eligibility is based on household income and the number of people living in the house. Income guidelines are based on Federal Poverty Guidelines using a sliding scale percentage for applicants whose income falls between 125% and 200%. This program does not cover Elective Surgeries or Non Emergent Procedures.

B. Some services at Stephens County Hospital are not covered by this Financial Assistance Program. Non-covered services include:

Stephens County Anesthesia Services

Apogee Hospitalists Group

Stephens County Physician Group (General Surgery, Orthopedics, Internal Medicine)

C. Steps to Apply:

1. An application must be filled out and turned in with proper proof of income.

Proper proof of income can be the following:

- a. Copy of check stubs
- b. Statement signed by employer
- c. Copy of income tax return
- d. A notarized, written statement of no income
- e. Bank statement showing direct deposit
- f. Copy of Social Security letter showing amount patient receives each month

2. The patient will receive a written approval or denial within 30 days of a completed application being received.

III. FUNDING

Funding for the Stephens County Indigent Care Program is provided by taxes from the county commission of Stephens County and used in accordance with the 1965 Bond Referendum and all subsequent addendums. The Stephens County Indigent Care Program is applicable only to residents of Stephens County (Zip Codes 30538, 30557, 30577, 30598).

Funding for the Georgia Indigent Care Program is received from the State of Georgia from the Georgia Indigent Care Trust Fund.