

	POLICY NAME: ROLLING PLAINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CHARITY HEALTHCARE PROGRAM FOR NOLAN COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT	POLICY NUMBER: 3079
	APPROVAL: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULIE HALL	ORIGINAL DATE: 05/17/2005
EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/30/2019	REVIEWED DATE: 04/30/2019	REVISION DATE: 04/24/2019

**Patient Charity Care:**

Nolan County Hospital District is committed to providing charity care to persons who have healthcare needs and are uninsured, ineligible for a government program, or otherwise are unable to pay for medically necessary care based on their individual financial situation.

Consistent with its mission to deliver compassionate, high quality, affordable healthcare services and to advocate for those who are poor and disenfranchised, NCHD strives to ensure that the financial capacity of people who need healthcare services does not prevent them from seeking or receiving care. NCHD will provide, without discrimination, care for emergency medical conditions to individuals regardless of their eligibility for financial assistance or government assistance.

**Purpose:**

To establish a Charity HealthCare (CHC) policy and guidelines for the Nolan County Hospital District. NCHD satisfies the statutory requirements of a hospital district by providing care for the indigent of the county through its Indigent Healthcare Program. The establishment of the Charity Care Program goes above and beyond the state requirements in order to serve more of the uninsured population of Nolan County.

**Policy:**

Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital (RPMH) will provide care to persons who are unable to pay for their care and for whom it is medically necessary that care be provided. The charity care provided will only be those services provided by RPMH, RHC and RPMH Medical Associates offices. The Hospital forgives its charges for eligible applicants/patients, but is unable to pay for other provider services (i.e. non-employed physicians, dentists, ambulance transports, other facilities, etc.).

The ER physician charges are deemed “non-billable” to eligible charity care patients. If an eligible person is seen in one of the hospital owned physician offices or in the RPMH Rural Health Clinic, the patient will be charged a \$25 per visit copay and this is expected at the time of service.

It is the intent of this policy that it complies with legal requirements. If at any time it is found to be in conflict with any legal requirements, the policy shall be changed to conform to the legal requirements.

RPMH will only grant eligibility for charity services when no payment source or an inadequate payment source is available to the patient. This is to be considered the program of last resort for those who apply for assistance. Charity is not considered a substitute for personal responsibility. Applicants will be required to take advantage of any other assistance for which they may be eligible before becoming eligible for the Charity Care program. RPMH may require a legitimate denial from other programs before it completes processing an application. This means that the applicant did everything they could to be eligible for another program.

In order to be eligible for charity care a person must:

- Have an inadequate source of payment such as insurance or savings
- Meet the residency requirements
- Provide proof about income and resources
- Complete an application and provide required information upon request

The eligibility criteria are outlined in Section 2 of the County Indigent Health Care Program Handbook (CIHCP). The same rules are followed with the exception of income limitations. Eligibility for Nolan County IHC is based on the minimum income standard as set forth in the CIHCP and updated annually. The same forms are utilized for charity care as are set forth in the CIHCP for IHC. Eligibility for charity care has been set at 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) with no provision made for additional household members.

Eligibility is to be determined by the Nolan County Indigent Care Coordinator or designated staff member. The above outlined charity care guidelines do allow for a one-time charity provision. This determination is made by the Coordinator while reviewing the application. When granting eligibility for a one-time charity discount, several factors are taken into consideration. This is always on a case-

by-case basis, but consistency and fairness are always the basis for such considerations. Nothing herein shall limit the authority of administration to declare an individual case as charity, due solely to the incompleteness or lack of all required forms.

Presumptive Charity:

There are circumstances when a patient may appear eligible for charity care, but there is no financial assistance application on file or a lack of supporting documents. Often there is adequate information provided by the patient or through other sources, which could provide sufficient evidence to provide the patient the charity care assistance. Once determined, due to the inherent nature of the presumptive circumstances, the only discount that can be granted is 100% write off of the account balance. Presumptive eligibility may be determined on the basis of individual life circumstances that may include:

- 1) Homelessness
- 2) Food Stamp Eligibility
- 3) Low income/subsidized housing is provided as valid address
- 4) Patient is deceased with no known estate
- 5) Uncollectible large MVA accounts
- 6) Historical significance of non-payment that establishes a justification of future non-payment and lack of ability to pay the patient balance owed.

The intent is to grant this to Nolan County residents only but one-time presumptive charity will be allowed in other cases (i.e. homelessness, extremely large accounts that are not covered by insurance / third party payers, uncollectible MVA accounts). These accounts will all be reviewed on a case by case basis and the patient will not be eligible for the regular Charity Care Program (with 6 month eligibility and follow up through the renewal process).