

	POLICY NAME: ROLLING PLAINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CHARITY HEALTHCARE PROGRAM FOR NOLAN COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT	POLICY NUMBER: 3079
	APPROVAL: JULIE HALL	ORIGINAL DATE: 05/17/2005
EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/14/2016	REVIEWED DATE: 11/14/2016	REVISION DATE: 11/13/2016

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 set forth in Chapter 61, Health and Safety Code. 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 service provided will only be those services provided by RPMH. The Hospital forgives its charges for eligible applicants/patients, but is unable to pay for other provider services (i.e. physicians, ambulance transports, other facilities, etc.).

The ER physician charges are also covered for eligible Charity Care patients. If an eligible person is seen in one of the hospital owned physician offices or in the RPMH RHC, the patient will be charged a \$25 per visit copay.

It is the intent of this policy that it complies with legal requirements. If at anytime 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. 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 150% 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. These charity care guidelines do allow for a one-time charity provision. This determination is made by the Coordinator when 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.