

## Ascension St. Vincent

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

04/01/24

#### POLICY/PRINCIPLES

It is the policy of the organizations listed below this paragraph (each one being the “Organization”) to ensure a socially just practice for providing emergency and other medically necessary care at the Organization’s facilities. This policy is specifically designed to address the financial assistance eligibility for patients who are in need of financial assistance and receive care from the Organization. This policy applies to each of the following Organizations within Ascension St. Vincent:

*St. Vincent Anderson Regional Hospital, Inc. d/b/a Ascension St. Vincent Anderson*

1. All financial assistance will reflect our commitment to and reverence for individual human dignity and the common good, our special concern for and solidarity with persons living in poverty and other vulnerable persons, and our commitment to distributive justice and stewardship.
2. This policy applies to all emergency and other medically necessary care provided by the Organization, including employed physician services and behavioral health. This policy does not apply to charges for care that is not emergency and other medically necessary care.
3. The List of Providers Covered by the Financial Assistance Policy provides a list of any providers delivering care within the Organization’s facilities that specifies which are covered by the financial assistance policy and which are not.

#### DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

- “**501(r)**” means Section 501(r) of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
- “**Amount Generally Billed**” or “**AGB**” means, with respect to emergency and other medically necessary care, the amount generally billed to individuals who have insurance covering such care.
- “**Community**” means Ascension St. Vincent Anderson’s primary service area, although not exclusive to, is Madison County which is in Central Indiana. A Patient will also be deemed to be a member of the Organization’s Community if the emergency and medically necessary care the Patient requires is continuity of emergency and medically necessary care received at another Ascension Health facility where the Patient has qualified for financial assistance for such emergency and medically necessary care.
- “**Emergency care**” means care to treat a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that the absence of immediate medical attention may result in serious impairment to bodily function, serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part, or placing the health of the individual in serious jeopardy.
- “**Medically necessary care**” means care that is (1) appropriate and consistent with and essential for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of a Patient’s condition; (2) the most appropriate supply or level of service for the Patient’s condition that can be provided safely; (3) not provided primarily

for the convenience of the Patient, the Patient's family, physician or caretaker; and (4) more likely to result in a benefit to the Patient rather than harm. For future scheduled care to be "medically necessary care," the care and the timing of care must be approved by the Organization's Chief Medical Officer (or designee). The determination of medically necessary care must be made by a licensed provider that is providing medical care to the Patient and, at the Organization's discretion, by the admitting physician, referring physician, and/or Chief Medical Officer or other reviewing physician (depending on the type of care being recommended). In the event that care requested by a Patient covered by this policy is determined not to be medically necessary by a reviewing physician, that determination also must be confirmed by the admitting or referring physician.

- **"Organization"** means *St. Vincent Anderson Regional Hospital, Inc. d/b/a Ascension St. Vincent Anderson*.
- **"Patient"** means those persons who receive emergency and other medically necessary care at the Organization and the person who is financially responsible for the care of the patient.

### **Financial Assistance Provided**

Financial assistance described in this section is limited to Patients that live in the Community:

1. Subject to the other provisions of this Financial Assistance Policy, Patients with income less than or equal to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level income ("FPL"), will be eligible for 100% charity care on that portion of the charges for services for which the Patient is responsible following payment by an insurer, if any, if such Patient determined to be eligible pursuant to presumptive scoring (described in Paragraph 5 below) or submits a financial assistance application (an "Application") on or prior to the 240th day after the Patient's first discharge bill and the Application is approved by the Organization. Patient will be eligible for up to 100% financial assistance if Patient submits the Application after the 240th day after the Patient's first discharge bill, but then the amount of financial assistance available to a Patient in this category is limited to Patient's unpaid balance after taking into account any payments made on Patient's account. A Patient eligible for this category of financial assistance will not be charged more than the calculated AGB charges.
2. Subject to the other provisions of this Financial Assistance Policy, Patients with incomes above 250% of the FPL but not exceeding 400% of the FPL, will receive a sliding scale discount on that portion of the charges for services provided for which the Patient is responsible following payment by an insurer, if any, if such Patient submits an Application on or prior to the 240th day after the Patient's first discharge bill and the Application is approved by the Organization. Patient will be eligible for the sliding scale discount financial assistance if Patient submits the Application after the 240th day after the Patient's first discharge bill, but then the amount of financial assistance available to a Patient in this category is limited to Patient's unpaid balance after taking into account any payments made on Patient's account. A Patient eligible for this category of financial assistance will not be charged more than the calculated AGB charges.
3. Subject to the other provisions of this Financial Assistance Policy, a Patient with income greater than 400% of the FPL may be eligible for financial assistance under a "Means Test" for some discount of Patient's charges for services from the Organization based on a Patient's total medical debt. A Patient will be eligible for financial assistance pursuant to the Means Test if the Patient has excessive total medical debt, which includes medical debt to Ascension and any

other health care provider, for emergency and other medically necessary care, that is equal to or greater than such Patient's household's gross income. The level of financial assistance provided pursuant to the Means Test is the same as is granted to a patient with income at 400% of the FPL under Paragraph 2 above, if such Patient submits an Application on or prior to the 240th day after the Patient's first discharge bill and the Application is approved by the Organization. Patient will be eligible for the means test discount financial assistance if such Patient submits the Application after the 240th day after the Patient's first discharge bill, but then the amount of financial assistance available to a Patient in this category is limited to Patient's unpaid balance after taking into account any payments made on Patient's account. A Patient eligible for this category of financial assistance will not be charged more than the calculated AGB charges.

4. A Patient may not be eligible for the financial assistance described in Paragraphs 1 through 3 above if such Patient is deemed to have sufficient assets to pay pursuant to an "Asset Test." The Asset Test involves a substantive assessment of a Patient's ability to pay based on the categories of assets measured in the FAP Application. A Patient with such assets that exceed that exceed 250% of such Patient's FPL amount may not be eligible for financial assistance.
5. Eligibility for financial assistance may be determined at any point in the revenue cycle and may include the use of presumptive scoring for a Patient with a sufficient unpaid balance within the first 240 days after the Patient's first discharge bill to determine eligibility for 100% charity care notwithstanding Patient's failure to complete a financial assistance application ("FAP Application"). If Patient is granted 100% charity care without submitting a completed FAP Application and via presumptive scoring only, the amount of financial assistance for which Patient is eligible is limited to Patient's unpaid balance after taking into account any payments made on Patient's account. A determination of eligibility based on presumptive scoring only applies to the episode of care for which the presumptive scoring is conducted.
6. For a Patient that participates in certain insurance plans that deem the Organization to be "out-of-network," the Organization may reduce or deny the financial assistance that would otherwise be available to Patient based upon a review of Patient's insurance information and other pertinent facts and circumstances.
7. The Patient may appeal any denial of eligibility for Financial Assistance by providing additional information to the Organization within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of notification of denial. All appeals will be reviewed by the Organization for a final determination. If the final determination affirms the previous denial of Financial Assistance, written notification will be sent to Patient. The process for Patients and families to appeal the Organization's decisions regarding eligibility for financial assistance is as follows:
  - a. All appeals will need to be submitted in writing via mail to: Ascension St. Vincent, Vice President of Revenue Cycle, 5763 Reliable Parkway, Chicago, IL 60680-5763.
  - b. All appeals will be considered by the Organization's financial assistance appeals committee, and decisions of the committee will be sent in writing to the Patient or family that filed the appeal.

### **Other Assistance for Patients Not Eligible for Financial Assistance**

Patients who are not eligible for financial assistance, as described above, still may qualify for other types of assistance offered by the Organization. In the interest of completeness, these other types of assistance are listed here, although they are not need-based and are not intended to be subject to 501(r) but are included here for the convenience of the community served by the Organization.

1. Uninsured Patients who are not eligible for financial assistance will be provided a discount based on the discount provided to the highest-paying payor for that Organization. The highest paying payor must account for at least 3% of the Organization's population as measured by volume or gross patient revenues. If a single payor does not account for this minimum level of volume, more than one payor contract should be averaged such that the payment terms that are used for averaging account for at least 3% of the volume of the Organization's business for that given year.
2. Uninsured and insured Patients who are not eligible for financial assistance may receive a prompt pay discount. The prompt pay discount may be offered in addition to the uninsured discount described in the immediately preceding paragraph.

### **Limitations on Charges for Patients Eligible for Financial Assistance**

Patients eligible for Financial Assistance will not be charged individually more than AGB for emergency and other medically necessary care and not more than gross charges for all other medical care. The Organization calculates one or more AGB percentages using the "look-back" method and including Medicare fee-for-service and all private health insurers that pay claims to the Organization, all in accordance with 501(r). A free copy of the AGB calculation description and percentage(s) may be obtained on the Organization's website or by visiting any Patient Registration department or by calling our Customer Service Department.

### **Applying for Financial Assistance and Other Assistance**

A Patient may qualify for financial assistance through presumptive scoring eligibility or by applying for financial assistance by submitting a completed FAP Application. The FAP Application and FAP Application Instructions are available on the Organization's website or by visiting any Patient Registration department or via mail by calling our Customer Service Department. The Organization will require the uninsured to work with a financial counselor to apply for Medicaid or other public assistance programs for which the patient is deemed to be potentially eligible in order to qualify for financial assistance (except where eligible and approved via presumptive scoring). A Patient may be denied financial assistance if the Patient provides false information on a FAP Application or in connection with the presumptive scoring eligibility process, if the patient refuses to assign insurance proceeds or the right to be paid directly by an insurance company that may be obligated to pay for the care provided, or if the patient refuses to work with a financial counselor to apply for Medicaid or other public assistance programs for which the patient is deemed to be potentially eligible in order to qualify for financial assistance (except where eligible and approved via presumptive scoring). The Organization may consider a FAP Application completed less than six months prior to any eligibility determination date in making a determination about eligibility for a current episode of care. The Organization will not consider a FAP Application completed more than six months prior to any eligibility determination date.

## **Billing and Collections**

The actions that the Organization may take in the event of nonpayment are described in a separate billing and collections policy. A free copy of the billing and collections policy may be obtained on the Organization's website or by visiting any Patient Registration department or via mail by calling our Customer Service Department.

## **Interpretation**

This policy, together with all applicable procedures, is intended to comply with and shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with 501(r) except where specifically indicated.

**Ascension St. Vincent Anderson**

**LIST OF PROVIDERS COVERED BY THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY**

04/01/24

The list below specifies which providers of emergency and other medically necessary care delivered in the hospital facility are covered by the Financial Assistance Policy (FAP). *Please note that any care that is not emergency and other medically necessary care is not covered by the FAP for any providers.*

Providers covered by FAP

Providers not covered by FAP

All St. Vincent Medical Group Physicians	Muhammad Afzal MD
All St. Vincent Employed Physicians	Bianca Ainhorn MD
Madison County Emergency Physicians	Peter Arfken MD
CEP America d/b/a Vituity	Sri Alapati MD
	Hayma Al-Ghawi MD
	Peter Arfken MD
	Charles Austgen MD
	Joseph Baer MD
	Aaron Baessler MD
	Brandon Baker DPM
	Sukhminder Bhangoo MD
	Sandeep Bhave MD
	Parin Bhayani MD
	Jeffrey Blake MD
	Ted Bloch MD
	Stacie Braswell MD
	Chad Calendine MD
	James Callahan MD
	Brian Camilleri DO
	Jonathan Chae MD
	Elizabeth Chan DPM
	Marvinia Charles MD
	Usman Cheema MD
	Ryan Cieply MD
	Clare Cormier DPM
	Elizabeth Cottongim MD
	Cassey Crowell DPM
	Brent Damer DO
	Rachel Davenport MD
	Natalia Dejneka MD
	Matthew Dewitt DPM

	Ryan Dhaemers MD
	Joshua Dowell MD
	Jack Drew MD
	Tasheema Fair MD
	Kalen Farr DPM
	Sarah Filson MD
	Vincent Flanders MD
	Edgardo Flores Anticono MD
	Matthew Gillott MD
	Ravneet Grewal MD
	David Gulliver MD
	Aparajita Gupta DDS
	Dirk de Haas MD
	Thomas Hagman MD
	David Hall MD
	Syed Hasan MD
	Dan Hecimovich MD
	Robin Helmuth MD
	Arnold Herskovic MD
	Brian Hornback MD
	Kelly Horst MD
	Charles Howe MD
	Anthony Illing MD
	Ryan Jagers MD
	Joseph Jerman MD
	Preetham Jetty MD
	Regi Joseph MD
	Sunil Juthani MD
	Andrew Kapsalis DPM
	Swapna Katipally MD
	Alae Kawam DO
	Patrick Kay MD
	Michael Kellams DO
	Daniel Kim MD
	Paul Kittaka MD
	William Kopp MD
	Deepthi Kurakula MD
	Theodore Labus MD
	Chad Lamb MD
	Mark Lawlor MD

	Ching Li MD
	Michael Lisch MD
	Eva Lizer MD
	Lin Lu DO
	Matthew Locker MD
	Jon Maier MD
	Vasilis Makris MD
	David Mares MD
	Dwight Mccurdy MD
	Gordon Mclaughlin MD
	Christopher Mcpeek MD
	Michael Meng MD
	Pablo Molina MD
	Takunda Mugwisi MD
	Jennifer Muldoon MD
	Charles Mulry MD
	Bih Ndofor MD
	Rod Nisi MD
	Craig Novy MD
	Elizabeth Nowacki DO
	Marie Nowak MD
	Amy Oberhelman MD
	Daniel O'Brien DO
	Onisuru Okotie MD
	Nassim Olabi DDS
	Kevin O'Neill MD
	Christopher Pavelka DO
	Donald Perez MD
	Unnikrishnan Pillai MD
	Ronald Pieniecki MD
	Nicholas Pipito MD
	Frank Pistoia MD
	John Quiles MD
	Robert Quirey MD
	Parthiban Ramachandran MD
	Joanne Ray MD
	Andrew Ritchison MD
	Christopher Rocco MD
	David Ross MD
	Julia Ruckman-Long MD



	Richard Rust MD
	Thomas Salisbury MD
	Ahmad Saltagi MD
	Ravi Sarin MD
	Stacey Schmiedecke MD
	Agnes Schrader MD
	Scott Schulman DPM
	Teri Schulz MD
	Ashley Seidner DO
	Rachel Seltman MD
	Ubaidullah Sharief MD
	Christina Shinaver MD
	Michael Shugar MD
	Andrew Skinner MD
	Michael Skulski MD
	David Soper MD
	Gouri Sreepati MD
	Anthony Steele MD
	Larry Stover MD
	Nirmal Surtani MD
	David Sved DPM
	Minati Swofford MD
	Muhammad Tahir MD
	Chad Tarr MD
	Francesca Tekula MD
	Marshall Trusler MD
	Cynthia Tucker MD
	Jeffrey Ulrich MD
	Nyria Villarreal MD
	Khalil Wakim MD
	Lori Wanko DO
	Scott Waterman MD
	Brian Wiegel MD
	Michael Wong MD
	Lauren Yeazell MD