

First Care Health Center

PO Box 1 / 115 Vivian St. Park River, ND 58270



CHARITY CARE/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Effective Date: *January 1, 2001*
Reviewed: *April 2007, March 2009*
Revised: *October 2010, August 2013*

Approved By: *First Care Health Center Administration and Board*

Philosophy

First Care Health Center (FCHC) is committed to improving the health of our patients and the health of the area it serves. The Mission of First Care Health Center provides for respect and care for each person as it strives to promote healthy communities through integrity, compassion, and excellence. Charity care is to help provide healthcare to disadvantaged people in our communities – as well as encouraging underserved people to obtain the healthcare they need. First Care Health Center provides financial assistance and counseling for uninsured and underinsured people of limited means, without regard to race, ethnicity, sexual preference, gender, religion, or national origin. Financial assistance includes, but is not limited to, full or partial charity care or reduced monthly payments.

Policy

In coordination with other community programs, FCHC provides temporary financial assistance to patients with demonstrated and documented financial need, who reside in the FCHC service area and receive primary health care services at First Care Health Center. These programs attempt to meet the needs of as many patients as possible and applications for this assistance are available from Business Office staff at First Care Health Center or by calling 701.284.7500.

In order to provide the level of aid necessary to serve the greatest number of patients in need and preserve resources, the following guidelines apply:

- Financial assistance is provided only when services are deemed emergent or medically necessary and after patients are found to have met all financial criteria.
- Patients are expected to contribute payment for care based on their individual financial situation and each case will be reviewed separately.
- Charity care is not considered an alternative option to payment and patients may be assisted in finding other means of payment or financial assistance before approval for charity care.
- Uninsured patients who are believed to have the financial ability to purchase health insurance may be encouraged to do so in order to ensure the limited funds are used in the most responsible manner.

Services eligible under this Financial Assistance Policy will be made available to the patient at the amount generally billed to any individual who has insurance covering such care. This is calculated by multiplying the gross charges times the amount Generally Billed (AGB) percentage calculated each year by the First Care Health Center Finance Department.

First Care Health Center shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations that may apply to activities conducted pursuant to this policy. First Care Health Center follows EMTALA rules in providing emergency services regardless of the patient's ability to pay.