



## *Charity Care Policy Summary*

Consistent with Mercy Medical Center's mission of providing care to needy persons and underserved persons in a manner that preserves the dignity of the individual, Mercy provides charity care to patients who are unable to pay for all or a portion of their bill. Mercy's provision of charity care is not limited to the Medical Center's primary service area. Emergency services are always provided without regard to the patient's ability to pay. For non-emergent care, no individual will be denied medically necessary hospital services based on a demonstrated inability to pay for those services. Patients who fully cooperate and complete an application for charity care on a timely basis will receive a prompt formal assessment and a written response.

All essential healthcare services, inpatient and outpatient, shall be available to all individuals under Mercy's charity care policy. Procedures inconsistent with the Ethical and Religious Directives as interpreted and applied by the Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre are specifically excluded from the Medical Center's charity care policy. Non-essential services and services that are not appropriate to a hospital setting may also be excluded from this policy.

Patients without sufficient non-exempt assets qualify for 100% charity care if their family income is at or below 300% of the Federal poverty guidelines. Patients are responsible for 20% to 80% of their bill if their family income is between 300% and 400% of the Federal poverty guidelines. Please refer to the current charity care income guidelines (attached) for sliding scale eligibility percentages. Documentation and verification of income and assets will be requested during the application process.

Mercy recognizes that the need for charity care may be a sensitive and deeply personal issue for recipients. Confidentiality of information and preservation of individual dignity shall be maintained for all who seek charitable services.

If you are interested in applying for financial assistance, you can obtain an application in the admitting department, any outpatient registration area and the emergency department; or you may call (516) 705-2991 or (516) 705-3900 for assistance.



**Mercy Medical Center  
Charity Care Income Guidelines  
2007**

Eligibility Percentage	100%	80%	60%	40%	20%
% of Poverty Level	0% - 300%	301% - 325%	326% - 350%	351% - 375%	376% - 400%
Family Size					
1	\$ 10,210 - 30,630	\$ 30,631 - 33,183	\$ 33,184 - 35,735	\$ 35,736 - 38,288	\$ 38,289 - 40,840
2	13,690 - 41,070	41,071 - 44,493	44,494 - 47,915	47,916 - 51,338	51,339 - 54,760
3	17,170 - 51,510	51,511 - 55,803	55,804 - 60,095	60,096 - 64,388	64,389 - 68,680
4	20,650 - 61,950	61,951 - 67,113	67,114 - 72,275	72,276 - 77,438	77,439 - 82,600
5	24,130 - 72,390	72,391 - 78,423	78,424 - 84,455	84,456 - 90,488	90,489 - 96,520
6	27,610 - 82,830	82,831 - 89,733	89,734 - 96,635	96,636 - 103,538	103,539 - 110,440
7	31,090 - 93,270	93,271 - 101,043	101,044 - 108,815	108,816 - 116,588	116,589 - 124,360
8	34,570 - 103,710	103,711 - 112,353	112,354 - 120,995	120,996 - 129,638	129,639 - 138,280
9	38,050 - 114,150	114,151 - 123,663	123,664 - 133,175	133,176 - 142,688	142,689 - 152,200
10	41,530 - 124,590	124,591 - 134,973	134,974 - 145,355	145,356 - 155,738	155,739 - 166,120
11	45,010 - 135,030	135,031 - 146,283	146,284 - 157,535	157,536 - 168,788	168,789 - 180,040
12	48,490 - 145,470	145,471 - 157,593	157,594 - 169,715	169,716 - 181,838	181,839 - 193,960
For each additional person, add	3,480				

The above income levels refer to family income. Family income includes earnings, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, Social Security, supplemental security income, public assistance, veterans' payments, survivor benefits, pension or retirement income, interest, dividends, rents, royalties, income from estates, trusts, educational assistance, alimony, child support, assistance from outside the household, and other miscellaneous sources. Non-cash benefits (such as food stamps and housing subsidies) do not count. Family income is calculated before taxes and excludes capital gains or losses.

**Other Asset Exemptions:** Available assets shall be converted to income for comparison to poverty guidelines, on a dollar for dollar basis, but will exclude from consideration the following assets in considering whether the patient meets the charity care financial criteria: savings accounts and other liquid assets with balances of less than six months of income, assets held in a tax-deferred or comparable retirement savings account, college savings accounts, all personal property, including, but not limited to, household goods, wedding/engagement rings and medical equipment, available business equity below \$50,000, automobiles used regularly by a patient or immediate family members, and other assets at our discretion that we may believe are in the patient's best interest to exempt.