

Texas Nonprofit Hospitals*
**Part II Summary of Current Hospital Charity Care Policy and
Community Benefits for Inclusion in DSHS Charity Care Manual as Required
by Texas Health and Safety Code, § 311.0461**
2023**

Facility Identification (FID): 1576444 (Enter 7-digit FID# from attached hospital listing)***

Name of Hospital: St. Luke's Sugar Land **County:** Fort Bend

Mailing Address: 1317 Lake Pointe Pkwy, Sugar Land, TX 77478

Physical Address if different from above: _____

Effective Date of the current policy: 07/01/2022

Date of Scheduled Revision of this policy: 06/30/2023

How often do you revise your charity care policy? yearly

Provide the following information on the office and contact person(s) processing requests for charity care.

Name of the office/department: CHI St. Luke's Health Eligibility and Enrollment Services

Mailing Address: MC 5-366 P.O. Box 20269 Houston, TX 77225-0269

Contact Person: Lisa Smith Title: Manager of Eligibility Enrollment Services

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Person completing this form if different from above:

Name: Fernando Escovar Phone: 2816377331

*This summary form is to be completed by each **nonprofit** hospital. Hospitals in a system must report on an individual hospital basis. Public hospitals, for-profit hospitals participating in the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program and exempt hospitals are not required to complete this form. This form is only available in PDF format at DSHS web site: www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/hosp under 2023 Annual Statement of Community Benefits Standard.

**The information in the manual will be made available for public use. Please report most current information on the charity care policy and community benefits provided by the hospital.

***The list is also available on DSHS web site: <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/chs/hosp/>

I. Charity Care Policy:

1. Include your hospital’s Charity Care Mission statement in the space below.

The hospital’s dedication to engaging with the community, assessing priority needs, and helping to address them with community health program activities is in keeping with its mission. As CommonSpirit Health, we make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.

2. Provide the following information regarding your hospital’s current charity care policy.

a. Provide definition of the term **charity care** for your hospital.

providing, funding or otherwise financially supporting health care on an inpatient or outpatient basis to a person classified by CHI St. Luke's Health as "financially indigent", "medically indigent" or providing funding or otherwise financially supporting health care services to indigent persons through other non-profit or public outpatient clinics, hospitals, or health care organizations.

b. What percentage of the federal poverty guidelines is financial eligibility based upon? Check one.

4

1. 100%

2. <133%

3. <150%

4. <200%

5.

Other, specify _____

c. Is eligibility based upon net or gross income? Check one.

d. Does your hospital have a charity care policy for the Medically Indigent?

YES NO IF yes, provide the definition of the term **Medically Indigent**.

An uninsured or under-insured person whose catastrophic illness or injury results in a hospital balance (after payment by third-party payers) that exceeds a specific percentage of the annual gross income, and the person is financially unable to pay the balance.

e. Does your hospital use an Assets test to determine eligibility for charity care?

YES NO If yes, please briefly summarize method. Family Income is determined consistent with the IRS definition of Modified Adjusted Gross Income for the applicant and all members of the applicant’s Family. In determining eligibility, CommonSpirit Hospital Organization may consider the ‘monetary assets’ of the patient’s Family. However, for purposes of this determination, monetary assets will not include retirement or deferred compensation plans.

f. Whose income and resources are considered for income and/or assets eligibility determination?

1. Single parent and children

2. Mother, Father and Children

3. All family members

4. All household members

5. Other, please explain

if patient claims someone as dependent and IRS documentation is _____

g. What is included in your definition of income from the list below? Check all that apply.

- 1. Wages and salaries before deductions
- 2. Self-employment income
- 3. Social security benefits
- 4. Pensions and retirement benefits
- 5. Unemployment compensation
- 6. Strike benefits from union funds
- 7. Worker's compensation
- 8. Veteran's payments
- 9. Public assistance payments
- 10. Training stipends
- 11. Alimony
- 12. Child support
- 13. Military family allotments
- 14. Income from dividends, interest, rents, royalties
- 15. Regular insurance or annuity payments
- 16. Income from estates and trusts
- 17. Support from an absent family member or someone not living in the household
- 18. Lottery winnings
- 19. Other, specify _____

3. Does application for charity care require completion of a form? YES NO

If YES,

a. **Please attach a copy of the charity care application form.**

b. How does a patient request an application form? Check all that apply.

- 1. By telephone
- 2. In person
- 3. Other, please specify _____

c. Are charity care application forms available in places other than the hospital?

YES NO If, YES, please provide name and address of the place.

d. Is the application form available in language(s) other than English?

YES NO

If yes, please check

Spanish 1 Other, please specify

4. When evaluating a charity care application,

a. How is the information verified by the hospital?

- 1. The hospital independently verifies information with third party evidence (W2, pay stubs)
- 2. The hospital uses patient self-declaration
- 3. The hospital uses independent verification and patient self-declaration

b. What documents does your hospital use/require to verify income, expenses, and assets?
Check all that apply.

- 1. W2-form
- 2. Wage and earning statement
- 3. Paycheck remittance
- 4. Worker's compensation
- 5. Unemployment compensation determination letters
- 6. Income tax returns
- 7. Statement from employer
- 8. Social security statement of earnings
- 9. Bank statements
- 10. Copy of checks
- 11. Living expenses
- 12. Long term notes
- 13. Copy of bills
- 14. Mortgage statements
- 15. Document of assets
- 16. Documents of sources of income
- 17. Telephone verification of gross income with the employer
- 18. Proof of participation in gov't assistance programs such as Medicaid
- 19. Signed affidavit or attestation by patient
- 20. Veterans benefit statement
- 21. Other, please specify _____

5. When is a patient determined to be a charity care patient? Check all that apply.

a. At the time of admission

b. During hospital stay

c. At discharge

d. After discharge

e. Other, please specify _____

6. How much of the bill will your hospital cover under the charity care policy?

a. 100%

b. A specified amount/percentage based on the patient's financial situation

c. A minimum or maximum dollar or percentage amount established by the hospital

d. Other, please specify there's partial charity of the avg generally billed of 200-400% of the poverty limit

7. Is there a charge for processing an application/request for charity care assistance?

YES NO

8. How many days does it take for your hospital to complete the eligibility determination process? 45 days

9. How long does the eligibility last before the patient will need to reapply? Check one.

a. Per admission

b. Less than six months

c. One year

d. Other, specify _____

10. How does the hospital notify the patient about their eligibility for charity care? Check all that apply.
Check all that apply?

a. In person

b. By telephone

c. By correspondence

d. Other, specify _____

11. Are all services provided by your hospital available to charity care patients?

YES NO

If NO, please list services not covered for charity care patients (e.g. transplant services, ER services, other outpatient services, physician's fees).

12. Does your hospital pay for charity care services provided at hospitals owned by others?

YES NO

II. Community Benefits Projects/Activities:

Provide information on name, brief description (3 lines), target population or purpose (3 lines) for each of the community benefits projects/activities CURRENTLY being undertaken by your hospital (example: diabetes awareness). Access to care, chronic disease and mental health were identified as priority needs by the community stakeholders. Access to health care – Health insurance coverage is considered a key component to ensure access to health care. The Healthy People 2030 objective for health insurance is 92.1% coverage. 81.1% of the population in the service area has health insurance and 88.9% of children, ages 18 and younger, have health insurance coverage in the service area. A community stakeholder noted that access to care depends on factors such as income, insurance status, and the costs of provider visits, medicines, and transportation. Chronic disease – Leading causes of death in Harris County are heart disease and cancer. 12% of area adults have been diagnosed with diabetes, 31.7% have high blood pressure and 8.7% of adults have been diagnosed with asthma. Stakeholders commented that lower income neighborhoods have higher rates of chronic disease. Mental health – Frequent mental distress is defined as 14 or more bad mental health days in the last month. In the hospital service area, the rate of mental distress among adults was 13.2%. Community stakeholders noted there are cultural barriers to seeking mental health services. In many cases, there is a stigma to talking about mental health issues.

Additional Information:

Use this space if more space is required for comments or to elaborate on any of the information supplied on this form. Please refer to the response by question and item number.

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NOTE: This is the twenty-third year the charity care and community benefits form is being used for collecting the information required under Texas Health and Safety Code, § 311.0461. If you have any suggestions or questions, please include them in the space below or contact Dwayne Collins, Center for Health Statistics, Texas Department of State Health Services at (512)776-7261 or fax:(512)776-7344 or E-mail: dwayne.collins@dshs.texas.gov.

Name of Hospital: _____ City: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Suggestions/questions: