
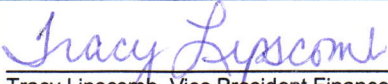
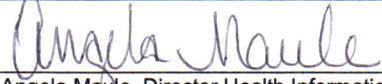
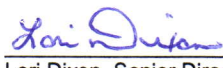


GARRETT REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER A Proud Affiliate of 	Department: Patient Financial Services		Policy Title: Caring Program (Financial Assistance)	
	Original Date: 09/01/01		Policy Number: 8520.000	Page Number: 1 of 8
	Effective Date: 09/01/01	Reviewed/Revised Dates: 01/11, 02/12, 2/13	Submitted by: Angela Maule RHIA, CCS	
Approval Signature & Title:  Tracy Lipscomb, Vice President Finance Date: 12/23/15	Approval Signature & Title:  Angela Maule, Director Health Information Management/Billing and Collecting Date: 12/23/15	Approval Signature & Title:  Lori Dixon, Senior Director Finance and Accounting Date: 12/30/15		

Policy Statement:

The "Caring Program" enables Garrett Regional Medical Center (GRMC) to offer financial assistance for healthcare services rendered to underprivileged, underemployed, and/or underinsured patients who have difficulty providing themselves with life's necessities, i.e., food, clothing, shelter, and healthcare. In an effort to assist those in need and to further the hospital's charitable mission, GRMC has established a financial assistance program to allow the write-off of unpaid account balances upon determination of the "Caring Program" eligibility. GRMC strives to ensure that the financial capacity of people who need health care services does not prevent them from seeking or receiving care. Individuals with a demonstrated inability to pay rather than unwillingness to pay are eligible to apply for the financial assistance program at GRMC. Patients are expected to cooperate with GRMC's procedures for obtaining financial assistance and to contribute to the cost of their care based on their individual ability to pay.

Objective:

The qualifying criteria are minimal and broad so GRMC can exercise maximum flexibility to offer financial assistance to program applicants. Eligibility to the "Caring Program" represents "free" or reduced healthcare and as such, is included as part of the hospital's outreach mission.

Guidelines:

- A. GRMC will grant financial assistance for eligible applicants for medically necessary services that are urgent, emergent, or acute in nature. Services included in the program are emergency room visits, inpatient admissions, and outpatient laboratory, radiology and cardiopulmonary services. Elective surgical procedures may also be eligible for financial assistance for eligible applicants through the "Caring Program" and will require individual consideration by management.