

SWEDISHAMERICAN POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

SECTION ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL	POLICY NUMBER 20-950.	
	EFFECTIVE DATE 10/01/2014	
NAME PUBLIC ACCESS TO SWEDISHAMERICAN HOSPITAL PRICING	SUPERSEDES N/A	DATED
	REVIEW DATE 10/01/2014	

I. **PURPOSE**

This policy allows public access to SwedishAmerican Hospital (SAH) standard charges in compliance with the Affordable Care Act, Section 2718(e) of the Public Health Service Act. This Act and policy are intended to promote transparency for patients to understand their potential financial liability for services obtained at SAH and to allow comparison for similar services across hospitals.

II. **SCOPE**

This policy applies to SwedishAmerican Health System employees to assist them in directing inquiries about SAH charge master or price estimates.

III. **RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of the SAH Patient Accounting Department to administer this policy.

IV. **PRACTICE**

A. **Hospital Charges**

Hospital charges are the amounts set before any discounts are applied. Hospitals are required by the federal government to utilize uniform charges as the starting point for all bills. Charges are based on the type of care provided and can differ from patient to patient for the same service depending on complications or differences in the treatment provided due to the patients' health. Therefore, any quotes provided are not a guarantee of what the charges will be for a specific patient's care.

B. **Estimates/Financial Assistance**

Many patients that seek hospital charge information are interested in knowing what their out-of-pocket financial responsibility will be. Those with health insurance will be provided the standard estimate and then will be directed to contact their health plan for their specific financial obligations such as their current deductible and coinsurance. Those without health insurance will be provided the charge estimate along with information about SAH's Financial Assistance-Presumptive Eligibility Policy, the Illinois Hospital Uninsured Patient Discount Act, and/or available counseling for Medicaid eligibility or the Health Insurance Exchange.

C. **Time/Location to View Charges**

Hospital charge masters are lengthy and complex documents and do not provide information at a level conducive to an individual's clear understanding of the answers to his or her charge questions. Therefore, the public may contact SAH's Insurance Audit Coordinator Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm at 779-696-2695 for assistance in obtaining answers to charge-specific questions. Individuals wanting to view SAH's actual charge master should contact the Insurance Audit Coordinator to schedule a time to meet at SAH.

V. **AUTHORITY**

Issued and approved by the President and Chief Executive Officer.

William Gorski, M.D.

Date