

**McDONOUGH DISTRICT HOSPITAL  
MACOMB, IL  
POLICY**

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**TITLE: PUBLIC VIEWING OF HOSPITAL CHARGES**

**DEPARTMENT: MULTIDISCIPLINARY – MD0585**

**SECTION: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

Original Date: **10/1/2014**      Effective Date: **6/13/2019**      Previous Revision Date: **10/20/2014**

TJC Standard Reference:      Year: **2018**      Standard(s): **RI.02.01.01, LD.04.01.05**

**AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
President / CEO

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VP / Finance

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Leader, Patient Financial Services

**PURPOSE**

Price transparency provides relevant and meaningful health care price information to patients making health care decisions.

**POLICY**

This policy allows the public to view McDonough District Hospital's standard charges in compliance with the Affordable Care Act, Section 2718(e) of the Public Health Service Act. It is intended to promote transparency for patients to understand their potential financial liability for services obtained at our hospital and to allow comparison for similar services across hospitals. However, hospital charge masters are lengthy and complex documents and do not provide information at a level conducive for this purpose. Therefore, additional information, as outlined below, will be provided to patients seeking price estimates.

**GUIDELINES**

I. Definitions:

Hospital charges are the amounts set before any discounts. Hospitals are required by the federal government to utilize uniform charges as the starting point for all bills. Charges are based on what type of care was provided and can differ from patient to patient for the same service depending on any complications or different treatment provided due to the patient's health. Therefore, actual charges for a specific patient will differ from the listed standard charges.

II. Estimates / Financial Assistance.

Many patients that will seek hospital charge information are interested in knowing what their out-of-pocket financial responsibility will be. This is an opportunity to have important conversations regarding finances. Those with health insurance can be directed to contact their health plan for specified financial obligations. Those without health insurance should be provided information related to the hospital's financial assistance policy, the Hospital Uninsured Patient Discount Act and any other discounts (e.g. prompt pay) that could be applied.

III. Handout:

“Request to View Hospital Standard Charges”

This document can be provided to all requesting access to the hospital's standard charges. In addition, HFMA's Understanding Healthcare Prices: A Consumer Guide can also be provided.

Requests for specific price estimates should be directed to Patient Financial Services for further assistance.

IV. Time / Location to View Charges:

The public may view this information in Patient Financial Services located in the basement of Health Services Building II by appointment Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm, with the exception of holidays when the office is closed. A designated representative from Patient Financial Services will be available during these hours to assist the public in accessing the information.

V. Format:

Access with assistance from Patient Financial Services staff. Average charges are grouped into MS-DRG and ICD9 Procedures for more meaningful information. Viewing of the actual charge master is allowed if requested for that level of detail.

Effective October 1, 2014.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>File</u>
6/13/19	Reviewed	(no revisions)