



The Hospital Payment Assistance Program

Senate Bill 12-134, the Hospital Payment Assistance Program offers uninsured hospital patients **a new opportunity to get help with their hospital bills.**

Please let your clients know about the important new protections they will receive under the Hospital Payment Assistance Program. Below, is a summary of those protections, along with important information for your clients. We need your help to ensure that patients receive the full benefit of the law. All provisions of the Hospital Payment Assistance Program **take effect on August 8, 2012.**

Provisions of Senate Bill 12-134:

- Requires hospitals to make information about discount programs, charity care and payment plan policies available in hospital waiting areas and on hospital websites. Patients should also receive this information while they are in the hospital and it will be included with their hospital bills. The information must be communicated in a clear and understandable manner and in languages appropriate to the communities and patients the hospital serves.
- Establishes a discount program for uninsured patients under 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$57,625 annual income for a family of four). Under the discount program, patients can only be asked to pay the lowest negotiated rate paid to the hospital by a private insurance company. That amount will generally be significantly less than billed charges. Clients are not eligible for the discount program if the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP) program is available to the client.
- Requires hospitals to offer to screen uninsured patients for the discount program established by the bill, as well as any other financial assistance or charity care programs offered by the hospital. The bill also requires hospitals to offer reasonable payment plans to uninsured patients and allow for thirty days to pass after the first missed payment before initiating collection proceedings.

Information for clients:

- Before you leave the hospital:
 - Hospitals should offer you information about their charity care program discount program and payment plan policies AND
 - Offer to help you apply for a discount on your bill.
 - If the hospital doesn't offer this information, ask!
- The hospital should offer you a reasonable payment plan.
- Hospitals must also take certain steps BEFORE sending you to collections including:
 - Waiting thirty days after your first late payment, and
 - Screening you to see if you qualify for a reduced rate and offering you a reasonable payment plan.

Who to call for more information:

CCHI: Britt Landis at blandis@cohealthinitiative.org or (303)-839-1261

CCLP: Elisabeth Arenales at earenales@cclponlin.org or (303)573-5669 x 302



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