



Smith County Indigent Health Care Procedures

The following are procedures adopted by Smith County Commissioners Court on this 16th day of November, 2010. These procedures are in accordance to Texas Health and Safety Code, Title 2. Subtitle C. Indigent Health Care, Chapter 61, Indigent Health and Treatment Act.

Section 61.006 Standards and Procedures

- (a) The department shall establish minimum eligibility standards and application, documentation, and verification procedures for counties to use in determining under this chapter.

Section 61.043 Prevention and Detection of Fraud

- (a) The county shall adopt reasonable procedures for minimizing the opportunity for fraud, for establishing and maintaining methods for detecting and identifying situations in which a question of fraud may exist, and for administrative hearings to be conducted on disqualifying persons in cases where fraud appears to exist.

The following are procedures originally adopted by Smith County Commissioners Court on December 14, 2010, and amended on September 25, 2012.

- An applicant must have a medical need in order to receive Indigent Health Care services.
- Anyone applying for Indigent Health Care services must apply in person at the time of interview.
- The application form must be completed in its entirety.
- Verification of income, termination of income, residence, household composition, and resources are required information. While income of disqualified and non-household members is generally excluded, it may be included if applicant is a sponsored person under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. Section 1101 *et seq.*) and who is sponsored by another person who executed an "affidavit of support" on behalf of applicant (specifically USCIS Form I-864 or I-864A). The applicant for Indigent Health Services must: 1) confirm whether or not applicant is a "sponsored alien" on or after December 19, 1997; 2) confirm whether or not any person has signed an "affidavit of support" (USCIS Form I-864 or I-864A) on applicant's behalf; 3) If applicant is sponsored or has had anyone sign an "affidavit of support" (USCIS Form I-864 or I-864A) on applicant's behalf, then the income of the sponsor **and sponsor's spouse** shall then be included in applicant's verification of income because the primary legal responsibility for applicant's medical needs rests with sponsor who signed the "affidavit of support".

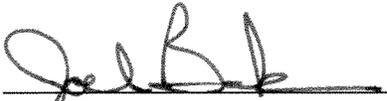
- Net income is calculated utilizing a gross monthly screening table located in the County Indigent Health Care Program Manual.
- Liquid resource assets cannot exceed \$2,000.00 or \$3,000.00 if the residence contains a relative who is aged or disabled. The equity value of an automobile cannot be greater than 4,650.00. Personal property and homestead as defined in the Texas Property Code in sections 42.002 (personal) and 41.002 (homestead) are exempt assets.
- Generally, a homestead exemption is defined by the county tax appraisal office; if the county tax appraisal office lists property with a home as separate and not part of the homestead, Smith County Indigent Health Care regards the property in the same way, although Texas Property Code section 41.002 may prevail where there is any conflict.
- Eligible persons must be residents of Smith County for minimum of 6 (six) months and must intend to stay.
- A Texas Driver's license, social security card, tax bills, or other appropriate documents to prove resident and citizen, is required to complete an application or we will not cover the applicant. Verification of legal alien status (Voter registration, SS Card, etc.). If SSN is used then it must be verified with call to Social Security. If an applicant cannot provide the requested information applicant will be denied.
- Re-qualify every month for questionable cases. All other, 3 to 6 months.
- Unless emergency, all services will be provided by Smith County facilities.
- Hospitals and other facilities must notify Smith County Indigent Health Care office within 72 hours of admitting one of Smith County's covered citizens or we will not pay the bill.
- Patient must see a General Practitioner (e.g. Family Practitioner) before seeing a Specialist approval required from the Indigent Health Care Office unless it is an emergency.
- For Mental health care issues, patients are referred to the Andrews Center.
- Covered patients will only receive a 30 day supply of any medicine up to 3 prescriptions per month. With verification of coverage from the Indigent Health Care Office.
- Patients shall be prescribed generic and non-narcotic drugs where possible with prior approval from the Indigent Health Care Office for any narcotic type drugs.
- Covered patients will only receive 1 (one) pain prescription per month.
- Impotence drugs will not be part of the program unless prescribed for other medical conditions. Sleep Aids and Birth Control will not be part of the program unless prescribed for other medical conditions.
- Pay lowest available (340B, Redbook or Medicaid) rates for prescriptions.

- Indigent Health Care Office shall train hospitals and pharmacies on qualifications of Indigent Health Care Program participants.
- Indigent Health Care Office shall enforce maximum \$30,000/year for client or 30 day hospital stay.
- Indigent Health Care Office shall enforce that Smith County is the payer of last resort policy.
- Only medical procedures that are required for the patient's health will be allowed.
- Indigent Health Care Office shall for Medical services use the facility with the lowest cost.
- A potential client cannot reschedule an appointment with the Indigent Health Care Office more than thirty (30) days from the prescreening date.
- If a household does not report a change that will make the household ineligible within 14 days after the date that the change occurred, the denial is effective the date that the change occurred. Since health care services are provided in good faith that the household is eligible, payments for any dates of service through the date that the Form 117 is issued may be reimbursable expenditures. Also, the household will be held responsible for payment of any health care services received after they become ineligible.
- Any former client being processed for fraud through Smith County Indigent Health Care Office, with an outstanding indebtedness to Smith County, cannot reapply and acquire coverage from the Smith County Health Care Program until the outstanding balance is paid in full.

Smith County will only accept and pay the standard payment rate (approximately Medicaid rates) as determined by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Smith County will pay inpatient medical bills by percentage rates until further notice. Smith County Commissioners reserves the right to reevaluate the payment method at any time; all parties will be notified if payment method changes.

Smith County has no financial responsibility for Non-Emergency Services or Prescriptions rendered to eligible resident by Non-Mandated Providers.

Approved this 25th day of September, 2012, by the Smith County Commissioners Court.



 Joel P. Baker, County Judge

9/25/2012

 Date



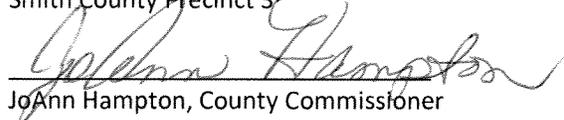
 Jeff Warr, County Commissioner
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