

Q&A: New CMS posting guidelines for January 1, 2019

What is new?

Beginning January 1, 2019, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that all hospitals make available a list of their current standard charges via the Internet in a machine readable format, and update this information at least annually.

Elizabethtown Community Hospital is pleased to provide this information to our patients, as we recognize that making good health care decisions requires having all of the facts and understanding your options.

What has been posted and what does it mean?

To comply with the new federal regulation, Elizabethtown Community Hospital has posted a spreadsheet that contains our hospital standard charges as of January 1, 2019.

How should patients use this information?

While Elizabethtown Community Hospital is pleased to offer this information to patients, it is important to note that the actual amount any individual patient is asked to pay varies based on factors, and does not usually reflect the exact amounts in these spreadsheets. Factors include an individual's medical insurance plan and the organization's contracts with insurance companies. Uninsured or international patients are eligible for discounts. A financial counselor is available to assist patients early in the process to identify eligibility for additional financial assistance.

- **Speak With Patient Financial Services**
(518) 873-3139

- **Apply For Financial Assistance**
Please visit us on online to find our guidelines, policy and download an application.
https://www.ech.org/data/files/2018_Financial_Assistance_Application_ECH.pdf

What kind of assistance does Elizabethtown Community Hospital offer to patients?

No one should delay or forgo care out of financial concern. As a non-profit, safety-net hospital with a mission to provide needed care regardless of someone's ability to pay, Elizabethtown Community Hospital offers a number of financial assistance programs. This includes an automatic discount to uninsured patients seeking care, regardless of residency, type or location of care. We also offer additional free and discounted medically necessary care to residents of northern New York who are not

eligible for a government program, or who are insured but cannot afford the costs associated with their care.

To learn more about the Patient Assistance Program, call: (518) 873-3139.

Where can patients go to learn more?

Elizabethtown Community Hospital believes it is important to ensure that patients are aware of various options for receiving financial assistance to pay for medical care. In addition to posting this information, financial assistance handouts have been updated to provide more information.

Patients can also visit these our website to learn more:

<https://www.ech.org/About-Us/My-Bill>