

WILMINGTON GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATES, P.A.

POLICY: Charity Care

EFF: 1-1-2010

APPROVED: SLP

(DATE) 1-1-2010

Charity Care

Wilmington Gastroenterology has established this charity care policy to assist patients that do not have insurance or the ability to pay for medical services. This policy will apply to procedures performed in our Ambulatory Surgical Center and will include the facility fee and the professional fee from our physician for the endoscopic procedure performed.

The provider should identify potential candidates for the charity program during office visits or from referring practices.

These patients should be referred to the business office to complete the charity care application. All resources of the family/both spouses are considered together. The application must be completed. Charity care will not be granted retroactively.

Completed applications will be reviewed by the business office staff to determine if they meet the criteria for our program. Federal poverty guidelines, published annually, will be used in determining eligibility. (See attached table)

The number of charity care cases may be limited each month based on the capacity of the center and determination of the practice. Charity care covered expenses will only include the physician's endoscopic procedure charge and the facility fee for a specific procedure on a specific date. It will not include pathology charges, laboratory charges, anesthesia charges, office visits or any other subsequent care or future procedures. Patients with any insurance coverage will not be eligible for this program. Patients deemed not medically appropriate for the ASC setting should apply for charity care services at the hospital and have their procedure performed by our physician there.

Self-pay patients that do not qualify for charity care will be offered a discounted self-pay rate equivalent to a managed care discount offered to insurance carriers. These rates will be established and maintained by the Business Office Manager.