



Origination 9/17/2023  
Approved 9/19/2023  
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Owner Shannon Hartke:  
CORP DIR PFS  
Area Patient Financial  
Services  
Applicability Harrisburg  
Medical Center

## Epic HB - Public Viewing of Hospital Charges, HB-PF-342

### I. POLICY

In accordance with the Affordable Care Act, Section 2718(e) of the Public Health Service Act, Harrisburg Medical Center hospital standard charges are available for the public to view. It is intended to promote transparency for patients to understand their potential financial liability for services obtained at our hospitals and 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, patients seeking price estimates/quotes are covered in policy [SY-PF-355 Patient Estimates](#).

### II. DEFINITIONS

Epic – electronic medical record used to bill or follow-up on patient accounts and scan information received or printed on behalf of a patient

Epic Dynamic Charge Description Master – a file/dictionary in the Epic billing system where charges reside and are defined

HAR – Hospital Account Record in Epic

Hospital Charges / Uniform Charges – the amounts set before any discounts. Hospitals are required by federal regulations 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 differences in treatment plans provided, as ordered by the physician, due to the patient's health. Therefore, actual total charges to a specific patient most likely differ from the average charge per case.

Hospital Information System – computer related software used to bill or follow-up on patient HARs and scan information received or printed on behalf of a patient

### III. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Corporate Director of Patient Financial Services and the IT Analyst ensures price transparency by posting a list of Inpatient and Outpatient charges on the internet with at least annual updates.
2. The Corporate Director of Patient Financial Services may assign a representative to comply with this policy from time to time based on the business needs of the organization.

### IV. EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS

1. Epic
2. Epic Dynamic Charge Description Master
3. Hospital Information System

### V. PROCEDURE

1. SIH is committed to price transparency and has posted a list of charges for Inpatient and Outpatient services.
  1. This list may not prove helpful for a patient to know what their financial obligation will be or to shop between various hospitals.
2. Average charges by Diagnostic Related Group (DRG) as found posted on the internet.
  1. These are total average charges by DRG for recent inpatients at Harrisburg Medical Center. These charges include items such as room and bed, and, as applicable, surgical and recovery services, lab tests, imaging exams and other services ordered by clinicians for the care of the patient.
  2. Actual charges could vary significantly by patient since they are influenced by their medical condition, length of stay, procedures and medications ordered by a clinician and other various factors.
3. Requests for specific price estimates are not covered in this policy and are directed to the Financial Counselor for further assistance. Refer to [SY-PF-355: Patient Estimates](#).
  1. Financial Counselors can be reached at the numbers listed below.
    - A. Harrisburg Medical Center 618-253-0251
  2. Price transparency details can be found on [www.sih.net/hmc](http://www.sih.net/hmc) see About HMC then select Bill Pay

## VI. DOCUMENTATION

N/A

## VII. CHARGES

N/A

## REPLACES

SY-PF-145, Public Viewing of Hospital Charges

### Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
	Bradley Campbell: SYS DIR REG & ACCRED COMPLIANCE	9/19/2023
	Shannon Hartke: CORP DIR PFS	9/18/2023
	Keith Anderson: DIR REV CYCLE BILLING / FOLLOW-UP	9/18/2023

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### Applicability

Harrisburg Medical Center