Sliding Fee Program

What is the Sliding Fee Program? The Sliding Fee Program is a federally funded program that provides a discount to patients who are uninsured or under-insured. This program allows eligible patients to receive qualifying primary medical care and/or qualifying dental services at Battenkill Valley Health Center (BVHC), qualifying services at Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC), and qualifying services at Southern Vermont Medical Center (SVMC) at a discounted rate after any insurance, if applicable, has been processed. There is a minimum co-payment due at the time of service for all discounted services received.

Who is eligible for the Sliding Fee Program? Uninsured and under-insured patients may qualify for the Sliding Fee Program. Based on current National Poverty guidelines, patients may be eligible for financial assistance based on household size and household income.

Do local hospitals offer Sliding Fee Programs? Whether you qualify or not for BVHC’s Sliding Fee Program, you may qualify for the Charity Care Programs for services provided by Rutland Regional Medical Center or Southwestern Vermont Medical Center. BVHC has agreements with RRMC and SVMC to provide patients who are eligible to be the beneficiary of the better of the two programs. The services covered within the Sliding Fee Programs at RRMC and SVMC include but are not limited to the following:

RRMC
- Diagnostic Laboratory
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency Care
- Inpatient Care
- Hospitalist Services for Adult Care
- Rehabilitation Care
- Obstetrical Care
- Specialist and Sub-specialty Care

SVMC
- Diagnostic Laboratory
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency Care
- Inpatient Care
- Hospitalist Services for Adult Care
- Rehabilitation Care
- Obstetrical Care
- Specialist and Sub-specialty Care
- Translation Services

When should you apply for the Sliding Fee Program? You should apply immediately to see if you qualify for the Sliding Fee Program. If approved for the program, you will be required to renew your application every 6 months. If you are not approved for the program, you are encouraged to contact us if you have a significant change in income or family size as we may be able to re-evaluate your information.

How can you apply for the Sliding Fee Program?
- Complete and sign the Sliding Fee Program Application (enclosed)
- Proof of Income – Please attach supporting documentation for any/all of the below sources of income (i.e. most recent W2, two (2) most recent pay stubs, proof of child support or other income sources by canceled check)
- Income is defined as the combined, before-tax (gross) money received by all relatives residing in the home. This income would include wages and salaries, unemployment insurance, disability, child support, pensions, trust account payments, and any other similar type of income. (Households claiming zero income will be required to schedule an appointment with one of our eligibility staff members to assess if a discount can be determined)
- A household member is defined as any person that spends at least 50% of his/her time living in the home and is related to the head of household. Patients living in the same home, who do not file joint tax returns and are not responsible for each other’s bills may apply separately and qualify separately for sliding fee scale discounts.

Enclosed is an application for the Sliding Fee Program. If you believe that you are eligible, please complete, sign and return your application with proof of income to BVHC. Once received, your completed application will be reviewed by the Practice Administrator who will then send you a letter regarding your eligibility. Keep in mind, if you are accepted into the Sliding Fee Program, discounts will only apply to services received from the date of your application through the 6 month approval period.

All of the required information must be received in order to process your application. Until you receive a letter indicating you have qualified for a discount, you are responsible for 100% of all charges. If and when you are approved, payment within 30 days of receiving a statement must be submitted to BVHC. If you are unable to make payment within 30 days, you can ask to meet with the Practice Administrator to set up a payment plan. Patients who fail to make payments per the terms and conditions of the payment plan will be put on same-day status. Patients on same-day status will be unable to schedule appointments; they will be seen for “sick” visits only, and must wait in the waiting room for an open appointment. Patients will be released from same-day status only after their balance is paid in full.

Patients who qualify for the Sliding Fee Program and who cannot afford the nominal fee will submit an explanation in writing for review by the Finance Department which will provide recommendations to the CEO. The CEO, or in her/his absence the CFO, is authorized to waive nominal fees on a case-by-case basis. Waivers for nominal fees will be approved for patients who can demonstrate situational hardship and, if applicable, steps they are taking to address the hardship.