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SYSTEM: Hospital Sisters Health System	MANUAL(S): Executive Manual
TITLE: Emergency Medical Care Policy	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Fiscal Services
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2017	REVISION DATE(S):
SUPERCEDES:	

I. POLICY:

Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) and each affiliated Local System’s mission and values encourage reaching out to people in the communities we serve to provide care to all persons, regardless of diagnosis, race, religion, gender, ethnicity, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or source of payment for care.

II. PURPOSE:

The Emergency Medical Care policy allows HSHS to clearly communicate our commitment to caring for all individuals who seek our services.

The policy is intended to satisfy applicable Federal requirements relating to charity care, including Code Section 501(r) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) and the regulations there under.

III. DEFINITIONS:

1. **Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA)** – a federal law that requires hospitals to stabilize and treat any person coming to an emergency department, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

IV. GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES

1. Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) and each affiliated Local System will provide care for medical conditions to individuals, without discrimination and regardless of an individual’s Financial Assistance eligibility.
2. HSHS and each affiliated facility disallows actions that discourage individuals from seeking medical care.
 - a. HSHS will disallow demanding payment from patients before receiving treatment for emergency medical conditions.
 - b. HSHS will disallow debt collection activities that interfere with the provision of emergency medical care.
3. In all encounters, HSHS colleagues will follow EMTALA guidelines as established by federal and state regulations. HSHS maintains a system-wide Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor (EMTALA) Policy which details more information.

V. DISTRIBUTION:

1. System Wide
2. Medical Staff Appointees
3. Allied Health Professionals



Hospital Sisters
HEALTH SYSTEM

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Originator: _____

Vice President, Revenue Cycle

Accountable Leader: _____

Chief Financial Officer

Administrative Approval: _____

President & CEO