

(2) Reimburse participating pharmacies in an amount equal to the Maryland Medical Assistance price, minus the copayment paid by the enrollee for each prescription filled under the Program; and

(3) Allow participating pharmacies to collect a \$1 processing fee, in addition to any authorized dispensing fee, for each prescription filled for an enrollee under the Program.

(h) The Secretary shall adopt regulations to implement the Program.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

19-214.1.

(A) EACH HOSPITAL IN THE STATE SHALL DEVELOP A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY FOR PROVIDING FREE AND REDUCED-COST CARE TO LOW-INCOME PATIENTS WHO LACK HEALTH CARE COVERAGE.

(B) A HOSPITAL SHALL POST A NOTICE IN CONSPICUOUS PLACES THROUGHOUT THE HOSPITAL DESCRIBING THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY AND HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED-COST CARE.

(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

(1) DEVELOP A UNIFORM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION; AND

(2) REQUIRE EACH HOSPITAL TO USE THE UNIFORM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE AND REDUCED-COST CARE UNDER THE HOSPITAL'S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY.

(D) THE UNIFORM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION:

(1) SHALL BE WRITTEN IN SIMPLIFIED LANGUAGE; AND

(2) MAY NOT REQUIRE DOCUMENTATION THAT PRESENTS AN UNDUE BARRIER TO A PATIENT'S RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

(E) EACH HOSPITAL SHALL ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO PROVIDE THE UNIFORM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION TO PATIENTS WHO DO NOT INDICATE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE.

(F) (1) EACH HOSPITAL SHALL SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION THE HOSPITAL'S POLICY ON THE COLLECTION OF DEBTS OWED BY PATIENTS WHO QUALIFY FOR REDUCED-COST CARE UNDER THE HOSPITAL'S FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY.

(2) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2006, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE DETAILS OF THE POLICIES SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.