



CORRECTIONS MEDICINE
Responsibility for Billing and Fees
ACA Standard: 4 ALDF –2A – 27

Effective: April 2017
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Policy Number:
CM – 01.1

- I. **PURPOSE:** To identify when the patient is responsible for billing/fees related to their medical or psychiatric needs.

- II. **POLICY:** Patients in a correctional setting are precluded by their confinement from the possibility of arranging for their own care. Due to this restriction, inmates have a constitutional right (Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution) to health care provided by the jurisdiction that confines them. The Saint Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH) recognizes this fact and shall make every reasonable attempt to provide patients in their care with adequate medical care according to the standards set forth by the American Correctional Association.

- III. **RESPONSIBILITY:** All Corrections Medicine staff are responsible for the content of this policy and procedure as well as adherence to the policy.

- IV. **PROCEDURE:**
 - 1. The DPH does not assume any financial responsibility for medical services that occur before a patient is physically examined by medical staff at the Buzz Westfall Justice Center and accepted into custody.

 - 2. Patients are informed of all fees for medical and psychiatric services during their admission and orientation process. This information is also available in the Inmate Handbook that is provided to each inmate upon admission from intake.

 - 3. Co-pay policies comply with the Constitution of the United States, and patients are not deprived of care because of their inability to pay. Excessive fees are viewed as a barrier to adequate care and are reviewed yearly by staff.

 - 4. Necessary medical care will not be denied due to the lack of a patient’s ability to pay. Co-payment fees shall be waived when appointments or services, including follow-up appointments, are initiated by Corrections Medicine staff or Department of Justice Services staff.

 - 5. If a patient requires services for their medical or psychiatric needs that cannot be provided by staff at the Buzz Westfall Justice Center, every reasonable attempt shall be made to obtain those needed services from an outside medical provider, per Policy CM-31 “Referrals for Specialty Care.” DPH shall assume responsibility for the fees associated with the patient’s care.

V. **REFERENCES:**

American Correctional Association; Performance-Based Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities, fourth edition; 2004; Standard 4-ALDF-2A-27

National Commission on Correctional Health Care; Standards for Health Services in Jails; 2014