

# FACT SHEET

## Hospital Care Assurance Program

### What is the Hospital Care Assurance Program?

Each state is required by federal law to have a Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program. These programs are intended to ensure that uninsured individuals have access to hospital care. Ohio's DSH program is called the Hospital Care Assurance Program (HCAP). HCAP provides a payment to hospitals for providing uncompensated or charity care to low-income and uninsured individuals.

### What services are covered by HCAP?

Ohio requires that all hospitals provide basic, medically necessary hospital level services to persons at or below the federal poverty level. This includes inpatient and outpatient hospital services covered under Medicaid. In order to qualify for reimbursement through HCAP, services must be ordered by an Ohio licensed physician and delivered at a hospital where the physician has clinical privileges and where such services are permissible to be provided by the hospital under its certificate of authority.

### What services are not covered by HCAP?

HCAP will not cover transplant services, physician charges, ambulance and patient convenience items (telephone, parking, television, personal items).

### Qualifying and applying for HCAP eligibility.

In order for a patient's care to qualify for HCAP, he or she must:

- be an Ohio resident;
- **not** be a Medicaid recipient; and
- have income at or below the federal poverty line; or
- be a current recipient of the Disability Assistance program

Each hospital has policies in place for the review and approval of HCAP eligibility. The patient should contact the hospital for an application. The patient will be required to provide proof of income (pay stubs or W-2s).