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March 12, 2026

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Financial Officers
Patient Account Managers
New Jersey Acute Care Hospitals

FROM: John Levay
Health Care Consultant
Charity Care Unit

SUBJECT: 2026 Charity Care Eligibility Criteria

Included with this package is the charity care income criteria which will be effective on March 15, 2026. The changes reflect the newly issued 2024 federal poverty guidelines that are used to calculate charity care eligibility income limits in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:52-11.8(b) and (c).

Also included with this letter is a copy of the 2026 Annual Update of the Department of Health and Human Services' Poverty Guidelines, as published in the Federal Register. Please distribute this Income criteria document to all hospital personnel involved in reviewing patient eligibility for the New Jersey Hospital Care Payment Assistance Program.

Please remember to use income criteria that were in effect at the time of the applicant's date of service when calculating their income to determine their charity care eligibility. NJ Hospital Care Assistance Payment Program policies for calculating income remain the same as in prior years.

If you have any questions, please call the Charity Care unit at (609) 292-4709.