

**Carolina Gastroenterology Specialists  
Endoscopy Center**

**SUBJECT: CHARITY CARE**

Charity Care:

For the purpose of this policy, charity care is defined as a patient having no financial ability to cover the expenses for needed and scheduled procedures. This determination will be made on a case by case basis and does not necessarily require level of income documentation. Income documentation may be required at the physician's discretion in collaboration with the Practice Administrator.

Patients will be accepted and treated on an as needed basis upon referral from primary care physicians that we normally receive referrals from within our demographic regions. We will also consider direct referrals for procedures from charitable organizations in the community.

**Private Pay / Self Pay:**

Private pay / self pay is defined as the patient who does have the financial ability to pay all or part of the expenses for needed or scheduled procedures. This includes patients who have health insurance but choose not to file their expense through their health insurance and prefer to self-pay for the procedure.

The determination of the fee schedule for private pay patients assumes that the patient is responsible for some or all of the incurred expenses. This determination will be made on a case by case basis and does not necessarily require income documentation. The treating physician or designee will discuss this in advance with the patient to arrange an adjusted fee schedule and may include a payment plan. Professional fees for the patient with limited ability to pay will be determined using the Medicare fee schedule or the individual's insurance contracted fee as the starting basis for determining reimbursement.