

PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. A patient assistance program is a program (i) sponsored by a manufacturer or supplier of items that UC medical centers furnish and bill to their patients (e.g., prescription drugs), and (ii) by which the sponsor applies its own financial eligibility criteria to determine whether to assume or defray the cost of its product when furnished to patients meeting such criteria. Any such discount would be passed along to the patient either directly by the sponsor or indirectly through the UC medical center. The discount would be made in addition to any charity care discount that the UC medical center offers directly to the patient under its Charity Care Discount Policy.

B. Program sponsors often ask UC medical center personnel to assist in administration or promotion of the program to UC medical center patients. If properly structured, such patient assistance programs can afford helpful financial relief to patients. If they are not properly structured, however, such programs can create significant liability for the UC medical centers and other participating facilities. Therefore, UC medical center personnel shall neither promote nor participate in a specific patient assistance program unless promotion of such program has been approved in writing by the medical center's legal counsel.

C. If a UC medical center participates in promotion or administration of a patient assistance program to a patients, it must provide written notice to the patient that (i) the patient is under no obligation to participate in the patient assistance program, (ii) eligibility for the program is determined solely by the program sponsor, (iii) participation in the patient assistance program will not affect the patient's eligibility for free or discounted care under the medical center's charity care policy, (iv) participation in the program may — however — lead the program sponsor to pay (or reimburse the medical center) for certain supplies which would otherwise be (or were) billed to the patient, (v) if the program sponsor pays (or reimburses) the medical center for designated items, the medical center will reduce or eliminate the charge (or reimburse the patient) for the item as appropriate.