

<b>MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Policy and Procedure Manual Department of Finance</b>		<b>Subject: Average Estimated Charges</b>	
<b>Original Date: 9/13</b>		<b>Number:</b>	
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**Departments Involved: Finance, Admitting, Collections, Patient Accounts, Marketing, Outpatient Services**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to define the procedure for informing prospective patients of the estimated average charge for an admission and /or procedure at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center.

**POLICY:** Hospital rates in the State of Maryland are regulated by the Health Services Cost Commission (HSCRC). The HSCRC sets rates for all payers including Medicare and Medicaid. Patients are informed of estimated average charges for common inpatient and outpatient services at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center via the hospital’s website. These charges are estimates and may change without notice. The actual cost of care may be higher or lower depending on the patient’s unique circumstances, such as length of stay in the hospital and complexity of their medical condition. These charges are updated quarterly

**PROCEDURE:**

1. A list of common inpatient and outpatient procedures and charges are maintained on the hospital’s website ([www.medstarsouthernmaryland.org](http://www.medstarsouthernmaryland.org).)
2. This information is reviewed and updated quarterly and is based on the average charges for the prior twelve months.
3. Patients with questions about this information are directed to contact the hospitals business office at **(301) 877-4262** during normal business hours.
4. Staff handling inquires will be trained on the policy and procedure and on how to manage patient’s questions about average estimated charges.