

ATTENTION CHI FRANCISCAN PATIENTS:

You May Be Entitled to Medical Debt Relief & No-Cost Healthcare!



St. Joseph's and St. Clare healthcare workers, members of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW, faith leaders and community members won a major victory for healthcare access and affordable care.

Have you or a loved one been a patient at a CHI Franciscan hospital? Will you go there in the future? You need to know about an important settlement.

The Washington State Attorney General sued CHI Franciscan for violating the law that requires financial assistance for lower-income patients. This assistance is called "charity care." The healthcare workers of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW, faith leaders and community members blew the whistle on St. Joe's and CHI Franciscan's illegal practices. It was a years-long, united effort.

CHI Franciscan must:

- Refund over \$2 million to all patients who already paid but HAD NO INSURANCE and should have received financial assistance. This goes for care received at all eight hospitals between January 2012 and December 2017. REFUND CHECKS FOR 5400 PEOPLE WILL BE SENT BY MAIL TO THE LAST ADDRESS ON RECORD.
- Cancel the unpaid debt of other patients who should have received financial assistance based on low income but did not. This goes for care received at all eight hospitals between January 2012 and December 2017. This will likely total over \$20 million.
- Restore the credit rating of patients whose credit was damaged because they could not pay a bill while they should have qualified for financial assistance.
- Stop debt collectors from continuing to contact and harass patients for any debt that is now forgiven.
- Inform current and future patients of their right from 2018 forward to apply for financial assistance if their income is at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. This notice must be both verbally and in writing. See federal poverty level chart on the back.

How to get a refund or debt relief:

All forms are available on the SEIU Healthcare 1199NW website at: <https://seiu1199nw.org/chisettlementforms/>
Or, call the CHI billing department at 1-844-286-5546 and ask for the appropriate form.

Uninsured Between 2012-2017

If you had **no insurance** between 2012-2017, a check is supposed to be mailed to you automatically. If you do not receive a check, fill out a simple form. It is called an attestation form. CHI is required to mail this form to all patients' last address on file. If you have not received the refund form, call CHI at 1-844-286-5546 and request one. Or, visit the hospital billing department in person to get one

Insured Between 2012-2017

Patients who were **insured** when getting care from 2012-2017, but had or still have bills owed, perhaps taken to collections, fill out a charity care application. The application asks for proof of income like old W-2s or pay stubs. If you cannot find proof of income, fill out a simple income attestation form. This form allows you to just write in your income and sign. The cost of care under charity care will be discounted.

All patients: First, make a copy of all forms for your own records. Then, turn the forms in to the CHI St. Joes billing department, or the billing department of any CHI Franciscan hospital. At St. Joes, this department is located in the main lobby. The mailing address is St. Joseph Medical Center, 1717 South J Street, MS 10-30, Tacoma, WA 98405.

Every patient should also check their credit rating to see if anything is owed to CHI Franciscan. If your credit report was damaged by CHI Franciscan it may not be automatically repaired. If that happens, call the Washington State Attorney General's office at (800) 551-4636 or go to www.atg.wa.gov/file-complaint

Any questions? Call Audrey Udashen in the Washington State Attorney General's Office at 206-254-0561.

CHI Franciscan Facilities Covered by the Settlement

- St. Anthony Hospital
- St. Clare Hospital
- St. Elizabeth Hospital
- St. Francis Hospital
- St. Joseph Medical Center
- Harrison Medical Center
- Highline Medical Center

Income eligibility for charity care that includes debt relief and/or repayment for healthcare costs from 2012-2017

200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines – 2017	
Household / Family Size	Annual Household Income Must Be Less Than or Equal To:
1	\$24,120
2	\$32,480
3	\$40,840
4	\$49,200
5	\$57,560
6	\$65,920
7	\$74,280
8	\$82,640
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$8,360 for each additional person.	

Eligibility for charity care from 2018 forward

Number of Persons in Family/ Household	Family Income that is 300% of the federal poverty level
1	\$36,420
2	\$49,380
3	\$62,340
4	\$75,300
5	\$88,260
6	\$101,220
7	\$114,180
8	\$127,140

NOTE: If your family household income at time of care would not qualify you per the charts above, but NOW you are low income or unemployed, you can still apply for retroactive charity care.