

	Cooper Green Mercy Health Services	POLICIES & PROCEDURES: ADMINISTRATIVE	
	APPROVED: 	ISSUED: 5/15	PAGE: Page 1 of 1
SUBJECT: SECONDARY RECEIVING HOSPITALS FOR COUNTY INDIGENT	REVISED:	REVIEWED:	

As a means of providing comprehensive, high quality healthcare to the residents of Jefferson County, Alabama, Cooper Green *Mercy* Health Services, herein referred to as “CGMHS”, contracts with area hospitals for the provision of emergency, inpatient, and home care services, as necessary to assure a continuum of care for its patient population.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital, herein referred to as “University Hospital” will serve as the primary receiving hospital for the provision of inpatient services, as well as for the provision of certain advanced specialty services. Other healthcare facilities in Jefferson County may also provide emergency and/or inpatient services to County indigent patients and be reimbursed for services pursuant to contractual agreements between the receiving facilities and CGMHS.

Emergent referrals from CGMHS will be directed to or, if necessary, transported by Birmingham Fire and Rescue, to University Hospital, along with available demographic and medical information related to the emergent condition. If the patient is eligible for county subsidized services, a billing authorization will be forwarded to the facility as soon as possible. Likewise, patients experiencing non-life threatening events deemed beyond the scope of the CGMHS Urgent Care Clinic will be directed to or, if necessary, transported by ambulance to University Hospital for treatment and care.

For non-emergent or scheduled patient referrals, a certified billing authorization control number will be issued to the receiving facility, evidencing the patient’s eligibility to receive County subsidized medical care for inpatient, diagnostic and/or treatment services. The billing authorization will specify the services that will be eligible for reimbursement from County subsidized funds. Unless otherwise agreed, services and treatment beyond the scope of the issued billing authorization require follow up authorization. All billing authorizations and patient pre-certifications are issued by the CGMHS Patient Control Center.

Reimbursement for the treatment and care of County indigent patients at facilities other than CGMHS is established through contractual agreements approved by the Jefferson County Commission. These agreements delineate the services eligible for reimbursement, stipulate the fee schedule(s) and payment terms and conditions, define billing and reimbursement procedures, and outline other information relevant to the relationship of the parties.