

## Safety Net Impact Statement

The establishment of Fresenius Kidney Care New Lenox will not have any impact on safety net services in the New Lenox area of Will County. Outpatient dialysis services are not typically considered "safety net" services, to the best of our knowledge. However, we do provide care for patients in the community who are economically challenged and/or who are undocumented aliens, who do not qualify for Medicare/Medicaid pursuant to an Indigent Waiver policy. We assist patients who do not have insurance in enrolling when possible in Medicaid for ESRD or insurance on the Healthcare Marketplace. Also our social services department assists patients who have issues regarding transportation and/or who are wheel chair bound or have other disabilities which require assistance with respect to dialysis services and transport to and from the unit.

This particular application will not have an impact on any other safety net provider in the area, as no hospital within the area provides dialysis services on an outpatient basis.

Fresenius Kidney Care is a for-profit publicly traded company and is not required to provide charity care, nor does it do so according to the Board's definition. However, Fresenius Kidney Care provides care to patients who do not qualify for any type of coverage for dialysis services. These patients are considered "self-pay" patients. They are billed for services rendered, and after three statement reminders the charges are written off as bad debt. Collection actions are not initiated unless the applicants are aware that the patient has substantial financial resources available and/or the patient has received reimbursement from an insurer for services we have rendered, and has not submitted the payment for same to the applicants. Fresenius notes that as a for profit entity, it does pay sales, real estate and income taxes. It also does provide community benefit by supporting various medical education activities and associations, such as the Renal Network, National Kidney Foundation and American Kidney Fund.

The table below shows the amount of "self-pay" care and Medicaid services provided for the 3 fiscal years prior to submission of the application for all Illinois Fresenius Kidney Care facilities.

<b>Safety Net Information per PA 96-0031</b>			
<b>CHARITY CARE* (self-pay)</b>			
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Charity (# of patients)</b>	251	195	233
<b>(self-pay)</b>			
<b>Charity (cost in dollars)</b>	\$5,211,664	\$3,204,986	\$3,269,127
<b>(self-pay)</b>			
<b>MEDICAID</b>			
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Medicaid (# of patients)</b>	750	396	320
<b>Medicaid (revenue)</b>	\$22,027,882	\$7,310,484	\$4,383,383

\*As a for-profit corporation Fresenius does not provide charity care per the Board's definition. Numbers reported are self-pay.

**Note:**

- 1) Charity (self-pay) and Medicaid patient numbers continue to decrease as Fresenius Financial Coordinators assist patients in signing up for health insurance in the Healthcare Marketplace. This provides the patient with insurance coverage not only for dialysis but for other needed healthcare services. Patients who cannot afford the premiums have them paid by the American Kidney Fund.
- 2) Medicaid reported numbers are also impacted by the large number of patients who switched from Medicaid to a Medicaid Risk insurance (managed care plan) which pays similar to Medicaid. These patients are reported under commercial insurance however, in 2016 of our commercial patients we had 1,230 Medicaid Risk patients with Revenues of \$22,664,352

## Charity Care Information

The applicant(s) do not provide charity care at any of their facilities per the Board's definition of charity care because self-pay patients are billed and their accounts are written off as bad debt. Fresenius takes Medicaid patients without limitations or exception. The applicant(s) are for profit corporations and do not receive the benefits of not for profit entities, such as sales tax and/or real estate exemptions, or charitable donations. The applicants are not required, by any State or Federal law, including the Illinois Healthcare Facilities Planning Act, to provide charity care. The applicant(s) are prohibited by Federal law from advising patients that they will not be invoiced for care, as this type of representation could be an inducement for patients to seek care prior to qualifying for Medicaid, Medicare or other available benefits. Self-pay patients are invoiced and then the accounts written off as bad debt.

Uncompensated care occurs when a patient is not eligible for any type of insurance coverage (whether private or governmental) and receives treatment at our facilities. It is rare in Illinois for patients to have no coverage as patients who are not Medicare eligible are Medicaid eligible or are able to purchase insurance on the Healthcare Marketplace with premiums paid for by The American Kidney Fund. This represents a small number of patients, as Medicare covers all dialysis services as long as an individual is entitled to receive Medicare benefits (i.e. has worked and paid into the social security system as a result) regardless of age. In addition, in Illinois Medicaid covers patients who are undocumented for ESRD only. Also, the American Kidney Fund funds health insurance premiums for patients who meet the AKF's financial parameters and who suffer from end stage renal disease (see uncompensated care attachment). The applicants work with patients to procure coverage for them as possible whether it be Medicaid, Medicare and/or coverage on the Healthcare Marketplace funded by AKF. The applicants donate to the AKF to support its initiatives as do most dialysis providers.

If a patient has no available insurance coverage, they are billed for services rendered, and after three statement reminders the charges are written off as bad debt. Collection actions are not initiated unless the applicants are aware that the patient has substantial financial resources available and/or the patient has received reimbursement from an insurer for services we have rendered, and has not submitted the payment for same to the applicants

Nearly all dialysis patients in Illinois will qualify for some type of coverage and Fresenius works aggressively with the patient to obtain insurance coverage for each patient.

### Uncompensated Care For All Fresenius Facilities in Illinois

CHARITY CARE* (self-pay)			
	2014	2015	2016
<b>Net Patient Revenue</b>	\$411,981,839	\$438,247,352	\$449,611,441
<b>Amount of Charity Care (self-pay charges)</b>	\$5,211,664	\$3,204,986	\$3,269,127
<b>Cost of Charity Care (self-pay)</b>	\$5,211,664	\$3,204,986	\$3,269,127

\*As a for-profit corporation Fresenius does not provide charity care per the Board's definition. Numbers reported are self-pay

Note:

- 1) Charity (self-pay) and Medicaid patient numbers continue to decrease as Fresenius Financial Coordinators assist patients in signing up for health insurance in the Healthcare Marketplace. This provides the patient with insurance coverage not only for dialysis but for other needed healthcare services. Patients who cannot afford the premiums have them paid by the American Kidney Fund.
- 2) Medicaid reported numbers are also impacted by the large number of patients who switched from Medicaid to a Medicaid Risk insurance (managed care plan) which pays similar to Medicaid. These patients are reported under commercial insurance however, in 2016 of our commercial patients we had 1,230 Medicaid Risk patients with Revenues of \$22,664,352

## **Fresenius Medical Care North America - Community Care**

Fresenius Medical Care North America (FMCNA) assists all of our patients in securing and maintaining insurance coverage when possible.

### **American Kidney Fund**

FMCNA works with the American Kidney Fund (AKF) to help patients with insurance premiums at no cost to the patient.

Applicants must be dialyzed in the US or its territories and referred to AKF by a renal professional and/or nephrologist. The Health Insurance Premium Program is a "last resort" program. It is restricted to patients who have no means of paying health insurance premiums and who would forego coverage without the benefit of HIPP. Alternative programs that pay for primary or secondary health coverage, and for which the patient is eligible, such as Medicaid, state renal programs, etc. must be utilized. Applicants must demonstrate to the AKF that they cannot afford health coverage and related expenses (deductible etc.).

Our team of Financial Coordinators and Social Workers assist patients in purchasing insurance on the Healthcare Marketplace and then connects patients who cannot afford to pay their insurance premiums, with AKF, which provides financial assistance to the patients for this purpose. The benefit of working with the AKF is that the insurance coverage which AKF facilitates applies to all of the patient's insurance needs, not just coverage for dialysis services.

### **Indigent Waiver Program**

FMCNA has established an indigent waiver program to assist patients who are unable to obtain insurance coverage or who lack the financial resources to pay for medical services.

In order to qualify for an indigent waiver, a patient must satisfy eligibility criteria for both annual income and net worth.

**Annual Income:** A patient (including immediate family members who reside with, or are legally responsible for, the patient) may not have an annual income in excess of two (2) times the Federal Poverty Standard in effect at the time. Patients whose annual income is greater than two (2) times the Federal Poverty Standard may qualify for a partial indigent waiver based upon a sliding scale schedule approved by the Office of Business Practices and Corporate Compliance.

**Net Worth:** A patient (including immediate family members who reside with, or are legally responsible for, the patient) may not have a net worth in excess of \$75,000 (or such other amount as may be established by the Office of Business Practices and Corporate Compliance based on changes in the Consumer Price Index

The Company recognizes the financial burdens associated with ESRD and wishes to ensure that patients are not denied access to medically necessary care for financial reasons. At the same time, the Company also recognizes the limitations imposed by federal law on offering "free" or "discounted" medical items or services to Medicare and other government supported patients for the purpose of inducing such patients to receive ESRD-related items and services from FMCNA. An indigent waiver excuses a patient's obligation to pay for items and services furnished by FMCNA. Patients may have dual coverage of AKF assistance and an Indigent Waiver if their financial status qualifies them for both programs.

### **IL Medicaid and Undocumented patients**

FMCNA has a bi-lingual Regional Insurance Coordinator who works directly with Illinois Medicaid to assist patients with Medicaid applications. An immigrant who is unable to produce proper documentation will not be eligible for Medicaid unless there is a medical emergency. ESRD is considered a medical emergency.

The Regional Insurance Coordinator will petition Medicaid if patients are denied and assist undocumented patients through the application process to get them Illinois Medicaid coverage. This role is actively involved with the Medicaid offices and attends appeals to help patients secure and maintain their Medicaid coverage for all of their healthcare needs, including transportation to their appointments.

### **FMCNA Collection policy**

FMCNA's collection policy is designed to comply with federal law while not penalizing patients who are unable to pay for services.

FMCNA does not use a collection agency for patient collections unless the patient receives direct insurance payment and does not forward the payment to FMCNA.

### **Medicare and Medicaid Eligibility**

**Medicare:** Patients are eligible for Medicare when they meet the following criteria: age 65 or older, under age 65 with certain disabilities, and people of all ages with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

There are three insurance programs offered by Medicare, Part A for hospital coverage, Part B for medical coverage and Part D for pharmacy coverage. Most people don't have to pay a monthly premium, for Part A. This is because they or a spouse paid Medicare taxes while working. If a beneficiary doesn't get premium-free Part A, they may be able to buy it if they (or their spouse) aren't entitled to Social Security, because they didn't work or didn't pay enough Medicare taxes while working, are age 65 or older, or are disabled but no longer get free Part A because they returned to work. Part B and Part D both have monthly premiums. Patients must have Part B coverage for dialysis services.

Medicare does allow members to enroll in Health Plans for supplemental coverage. Supplemental coverage (secondary) is any policy that pays balances after the primary pays reducing any out of pocket expenses incurred by the member.

Medicare will pay 80% of what is allowed by a set fee schedule. The patient would be responsible for the remaining 20% not paid by Medicare. The supplemental (secondary) policy covers the cost of co-pays, deductibles and the remaining 20% of charges.

**Medicaid:** Low-income Illinois residents who can't afford health insurance may be eligible for Medicaid. In addition to meeting federal guidelines, individuals must also meet the state criteria to qualify for Medicaid coverage in Illinois.

### **Self-Pay**

A self-pay patient would not have any type of insurance coverage (un-insured). They may be un-insured because they do not meet the eligibility requirements for Medicare or Medicaid and can not afford a commercial insurance policy.

In addition, a patient balance becomes self-pay after their primary insurance pays, but the patient does not have a supplemental insurance policy to cover the remaining balance. The AKF assistance referenced earlier may or may not be available to these patients, dependent on whether or not they meet AKF eligibility requirements.