

HEALTH CARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MEDICALLY INDIGENT

POLICY NO. 12-02

PURPOSE:

To advise hospitals, clinics, and emergency rooms in respect to the health care responsibility for the medically indigent residents of Hernando County.

POLICY:

1. The County acknowledges the authority and responsibility of the professional staffs of hospitals, clinics, and emergency rooms to determine and provide for the health care needs of medically indigent residents.
2. The County will adhere to the terms and provisions of Chapter 154.301 et. seq., known as and entitled "Health Care Responsibility Act" which compensates out-of-county hospitals for the provision of emergency care to eligible medically indigent County residents. All medically necessary non-emergency and elective procedures must be pre-approved by the County prior to the provision of said procedures.
3. The County states that it is the intrinsic obligation of hospitals, clinics and emergency rooms to provide for the health care needs of the medically indigent residents and to cause the transfer of the medically indigent to other health care providers as deemed necessary under the direction and supervision of licensed medical staff.
4. The County will provide payment for treatment of medically indigent residents under the Laws of Florida as heretofore referenced. No officer, employee, or agent of the County has the authority to guarantee payment for medically indigent residents, before or after treatment, other than as provided by the said Laws of Florida.
5. All claims for treatment of medically indigent residents shall be sent to the County Social Services Department, and all such claims shall be paid only to the extent required by, and under the terms and provisions of, the said Laws of Florida. The

indigency determination is to be made by the Hernando County Social Services Department according to the Board of County Commissioners' approved guidelines.

Replaced:	Policy No. 86-4
Reference:	June 17, 1986
Adopted:	September 18, 1991
Amended:	June 29, 2004

Amendment to Policy 12-02

Hernando County Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA) Pre-Authorization and Pre-Approval Procedures Effective Date: June 29, 2004

Hernando County participates in the Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA) in accordance with Chapter 154.301 through 154.331, Florida Statutes. The County complies with the provisions of approved Chapter 59H-1, Florida Administrative Code.

For out-of-county emergency services, Hernando County follows the provisions of the HCRA Handbook.

Effective June 18, 2003, Chapter 3.5 of the HCRA Handbook was revised to require a county to provide its written pre-authorization and pre-approval procedures for non-emergency services to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). Hernando County adheres to the following policies for such services.

Pre-authorization and Pre-approval for Elective and Non-Emergency Services:

1. A written request and a HCRA application for any elective and non-emergency service must be received by the Hernando County Social Services Department prior to performance of the procedure.
2. Only requests for procedures that are covered under the HCRA rules, which are not available with funding in Hernando County, will be processed.
3. The applicant must meet all the residency, income and asset eligibility requirements as set forth in the HCRA rules.
4. Should an applicant wish to appeal a decision, the HCRA Handbook appeals process will be followed.