Jackson HEALTH SYSTEM
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Section: Uncompensated Care

Subject: Use of Sponsor's Income

I. Purpose

It is the policy of the Uncompensated Care Program to review the immigration status of applicants during the financial assessment interview. If in the course of the interview, it is discovered that a patient has been financially sponsored after October 1997, the Enrollment Specialist must include the income of both the sponsor and the sponsor's spouse. This income will be added to the patient's assessment as other income. If the sponsor and his spouse do not live together, only the sponsor's income will be considered for deeming purposes. Legal aliens sponsored prior to October 1997 are not required to submit sponsorship information.

II. Definitions

Sponsored noncitizens are admitted into the United States because another person or group has completed an affidavit of support which attests to having sufficient income and resources to meet the non-citizen's needs. Sponsorship does not apply to the following categories of non-citizens:

- Refugees
- Asylees, and
- Persons paroled as "refugees"

The I-134 affidavit, used prior to December 19, 1997, required the sponsor to support the sponsored individual for three years from their date of entry. Non-citizens whose sponsor signed an I-134 Affidavit of Support are no longer subject to sponsor deeming rules.

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) began using the revised "Affidavit of Support" (I-864 and I-864A) on December 19, 1997. The I-864 or I-864A is a legally binding contract which a sponsor has executed on behalf of a noncitizen as a condition of the noncitizen's entry or admission into the United States. If the sponsor signed the I-864 or I-864A he/she is legally liable for the support of the noncitizen, he/she sponsored until the noncitizen meets the following criteria:

- noncitizen is credited with 40 quarters of work in the United States (usually 10 years); or
- noncitizen becomes a US citizen; or
- noncitizen leaves the country

III. Procedure

A. Individuals sponsored after October 1997
   1. Enrollment Specialist will request the Permanent resident card (green card), which allows an individual to live and work permanently in the United States.

   2. Enrollment Specialist will review the permanent resident card for the date of residency and category to determine whether the category falls under the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) sponsorship policy after October 1997.

B. Date of Residency
   1. If the date of residency is within the patient's initial 5 years of U.S. residency, the sponsor's income will not be required.

2. Patients who are outside the initial 5 years of U.S. residency will be required to provide his/her sponsor's income.

C. Calculating Sponsor's Income
   1. Calculate the sponsor's monthly income and that of the sponsor's spouse (if they live together) and include as other income.

   2. The sponsor and spouse should not be included as a member of the patient's family unit.

D. Excluding Sponsor's Income
   1. Sponsor's income may be excluded if the patient meets the following criteria:
      a. The patient is credited with 40 quarters of work in the United States (usually 10 years).
         i. A Certified U.S. Earnings Record may be obtained from Social Security Administration, displaying the actual U.S. quarters of coverage earned fir a given period.
      b. Patient becomes a U.S. citizen.
      c. If the patient is able to provide proof the sponsor is deceased.
         i. Personal statements are not accepted.

IV. References

N/A

Responsible Party: Chief Revenue Officer
Revenue Cycle Management

Reviewing Committee(s): JHS Policy and Procedure Committee

Authorization: Department Head