



City and County of San Francisco  
Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor

## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA  
Director of Health

# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 29, 2017

**TO:** Cecilia Chung, Health Commission Finance & Planning Committee Chair, and Members of the Health Commission Finance & Planning Committee

**THROUGH:** Barbara A. Garcia, MPA, Director of Health

**FROM:** Krishna Patel, Health Program Planner, Office of Policy & Planning  
Colleen Chawla, Deputy Director of Health and Director of Policy & Planning

**RE:** Fiscal Year 2015 Charity Care Report and Reporting Guidelines Recommendation

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Please see attached the FY 2015 San Francisco Charity Care Report, which will be discussed at the Health Commission's Finance and Planning Committee meeting on April 4, 2017.

As you know, the San Francisco Health Code requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to prepare an annual report analyzing charity care in San Francisco. In the FY 2015 report, there is an overview of charity care patients, costs, and services provided, along with a zip-code analysis of charity care patients - similar to previous reports. This report has been reviewed by the participating reporting hospitals and we believe it provides useful information about charity care in San Francisco.

In addition to the report, DPH will provide an update and recommendation on the Health Commission request from the previous FY 2013-14 report presentation (8/4/15) to understand whether the current reporting guidelines were reflective of the evolving charity care landscape in San Francisco. To fulfill this request, DPH led three workgroup meetings with the reporting hospitals and conducted in-depth research into different proposals for changes. As a result of the research and discussions, DPH recommends that the charity care reporting guidelines remain unchanged. The reasoning behind this recommendation is to ensure adequate and consistent data to track changes to charity care should there be changes to the ACA as proposed under the new Administration. It is imperative that we understand fluctuations in charity care in the City for purposes of planning and policy development to ensure access to health care for all San Franciscans.

We look forward to receiving your feedback and discussing the charity care landscape in San Francisco. Please feel free to contact Krishna at 415-554-2667 or [krishna.patel@sfdph.org](mailto:krishna.patel@sfdph.org) with any questions or comments.

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**The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans.**

We shall ~ Assess and research the health of the community ~ Develop and enforce health policy ~ Prevent disease and injury ~  
~ Educate the public and train health care providers ~ Provide quality, comprehensive, culturally-proficient health services ~ Ensure equal access to all ~

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