



ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF CINCINNATI

PROJECT ACCESS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Project Access is a nonprofit entity of the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati. Its goal is to facilitate charitable medical services provided by volunteer physicians for those uninsured patients who would otherwise be unable to access care.

Program Objectives

- To bolster the existing safety net by organizing a network of primary and specialty care physicians, hospitals, and ancillary providers who provide care to uninsured local residents.
- To provide timely care to patients in order to improve health status and reduce inappropriate use of emergency departments, hospitals, and other costly services.
- To provide a mechanism for recognizing the generosity of physicians, hospitals and other providers.

Target Populations

Uninsured Hamilton County residents with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Enrollment

- Rolling twelve (12) months.
- Patients may be terminated from Project Access for failure to keep appointments or conform to other program expectations.

Academy Project Access Responsibilities

- Screen patients for eligibility at the start of the enrollment period and as appropriate given the medical care needs of the patient.
- Schedule appointments and facilitate referrals to primary and specialty care physicians, hospitals, and ancillary providers.
- Assist patients in keeping appointments.
- We will track the type and value of services donated.
- Consistently monitor and evaluate Project Access to assure return on community investment.
- Inform the public, legislators, and business entities of provider contributions to the community.

Primary Care Physician Responsibilities

While the vast majority of Project Access patients will have community health centers as their primary care homes, for those primary care physicians in private practice who would like to volunteer for Project Access, their responsibilities will be as follows:

- Sign participation agreement indicating the number of new Project Access patients they will accept (one per month is general guideline for primary care physicians).
- Serve as the home for the patient's primary care needs during the time of Project Access enrollment.
- Provide primary care as they would for any insured patient.
- If the patient needs specialty care, a Project Access Care Navigator will help coordinate a referral.

Specialist Responsibilities

- Sign participation agreement indicating the number of new Project Access patients they will accept. Two per month is the general guideline.
- Provide care as the provider would for any insured patient.
- Upon completion of treatment, refer patient back to primary care provider with treatment summary and recommendations.
- Schedule hospital admissions and ancillary services with assistance from the Project Access Care Navigator.

Hospital Responsibilities

The participating physicians may need access to hospital-based services and ancillary services. Examples of services include:

- Out-patient services such as diagnostics, labs, and other ancillary services.
- Access to procedure rooms and hospital support.
- In-patient services (nationally, less than 5% of Project Access patients require an overnight stay).
- Discharge medications (if not available through the patient's PCP).

Medical Office Responsibilities

- Schedule an appointment for the Project Access patient when contacted by the Academy as they would any other patient.
- When the patient shows up for the appointment, register him/her and treat as any other patient.
- Have patient sign voluntary care consent form releasing practices of liability except for willful or wanton misconduct (see Medical Liability below.)
- When any follow-up appointments are needed, inform both the patient and Project Access. Project Access will do the scheduling and remind the patient.
- Complete patient billing form as they would for any insured patient and forward to Project Access to document charitable care.

Medical Liability

- For physicians with a written participation agreement, Ohio's Charitable Immunity Laws state that health care workers and professionals who are volunteers are generally "not liable in damages to any person or government entity in a tort or other civil action ... unless the action or omission constitutes **willful or wanton misconduct.**" [see ORC 2305.234 and additional information attached]
- While immunity laws do not cover surgery and deliveries, we encourage physicians to check their personal liability insurance for coverage and limits.
- Project Access does not carry liability coverage.