



**Consumer
Health
Action
Network**

NEWS MAY 2007

How Do I Manage Medical Debt?

If you receive a bill from a hospital or health care provider, it is important not to ignore the bill. Instead, make sure to call the billing office right away to ask about payment options and financial discounts. Also, HUSKY or SAGA may cover the costs of past bills if you receive coverage within 90 days of visiting the hospital or seeing a doctor. Contact your local DSS office to find out more.

If you feel that you have been unfairly billed or sued, contact Legal Services toll-free in CT at 1-800-413-7796. Our Health Care Consumer Advocates would also be happy to answer any questions about debt and send you additional tip sheets. Call us at 1-888-873-4585.

6 Tips to Manage Your Hospital Debt at Connecticut Hospitals:

1. Ask the hospital billing office about free bed funds and free care programs.
2. Fill out an application even if you are unsure if you are eligible for funds.
3. If your bill is sent to a collections agency, do not ignore the phone calls.
4. If you are not eligible for free bed funds or free care, ask your hospital about discounts and payment plans for your bill.
5. Write down the name of the person you speak with at the hospital so you can follow-up with that person.
6. If the hospital does not respond to your application or you run into problems regarding your bill, call the Attorney General's Office at (860) 808-5030

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From the CT Health Policy Project with funding from the Universal Health Care Foundation of CT



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