

## Pricing Transparency Policy

At **Great Plains Regional Medical Center**, our goal is to provide patients with high quality care and the best possible hospital experience, from registration through discharge. We know that understanding billing, insurance and medical records may seem overwhelming at times. Pricing Transparency is intended for patients to understand their potential financial liability for services obtained at our facility and to allow comparison for similar services across hospitals. However, hospital charge master are lengthy and complex documents and do not provide information at a level conducive for this purpose. Therefore, additional information, as outlined below, will be provided to patients seeking price estimates.

### Definitions:

**Hospital Charges** are the amounts set before any discounts. Hospitals are required by the federal government to utilize uniform charges as the starting point for all bills.

Charges are based on what type of care was provided and can differ from patient to patient for the same service depending on any complications or different treatment provided due to the patient's health. Therefore, actual charges for a specific patient will differ from the listed standard charges.

**Cost** – For a hospital, it is the total expense incurred to provide the health care. Hospitals have higher cost to provide care than freestanding or retail providers, even for the same type of service. This is because a hospital is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and needs to have everything necessary available to cover any and all emergencies.

**Total Price/Allowed amount:** is the amount actually paid to the hospital. Hospitals are paid by health plans and/or patients, but the total amount paid is significantly less than the starting charges.

### Hospital Estimates:

The hospital estimate will provide the patient/consumer with the following:

- The estimated financial responsibility for the procedure/services based on the average charge for the procedure/services
- Patients with health insurance will be quoted an estimated amount that will be due to the hospital based on the deductibles, co-pays or co-insurances amounts established by their health insurance plan
- Patients who do not have health insurance will be quoted an estimated amount that will be due to the hospital that will include an uninsured discount to the estimate.

**Estimates will not include** any services related to complications that may occur during the procedure/service. Also, charges for physician fees, such as a surgeon, pathologist, anesthesiologist or radiologist will not be included. These charges will be billed separately by the specific provider.