

Sawtooth Mountain Clinic Sliding Fee Scale Program

What is Sawtooth Mountain Clinic’s Sliding Fee Scale Program?

The Sliding Fee Scale program is a Federal program that permits Sawtooth Mountain Clinic to reduce the normal costs of medical, dental, mental health, and other services for patients who qualify. All patients are encouraged to apply for the Sliding Fee Scale program, whether or not they have insurance and regardless of immigration status. Eligibility for the Sliding Fee Scale program is based on:

- The number of people who live in your home (spouse, children, dependents)
- The amount of money earned by the people in the home

How can the Sliding Fee Scale program help you?

The program reduces your cost for visits to Sawtooth Mountain Clinic, as well as for the following services (see next page for specific service providers):

- Pharmacy
- Lab & X-ray
- Dental
- Vision

The Sliding Fee Scale program also reduces costs for the following **with a referral from your Provider**:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Mental/Behavioral Health
- Hearing Aids
- Initial Consultation Visit with a Specialist

How much will I pay for services if I am on the Sliding Fee Scale program?

How much you pay for services depends on your Sliding Fee Scale patient pay level. Sawtooth Mountain Clinic staff make the final determination on your level using the information you provide in your application. The following chart may help you estimate how the program might help reduce the cost of services:

Family size	Level A-Patient pays 0% of charge*	Level B-Patient pays 10% of charge*	Level C-Patient pays 15% of charge*	Level D-Patient pays 20% of charge*	Patient pays 100% of charge
1	0-12,490	12,491-16,653	16,654-20,817	20,818-24,980	24,981+
2	0-16,910	16,911-22,547	22,548-28,183	28,184-33,820	33,821+
3	0-21,330	21,331-28,440	28,441-35,550	35,551-42,660	42,661+
4	0-25,750	25,751-34,333	34,334-42,917	42,918-51,500	51,501+
5	0-30,170	30,171-40,227	40,228-50,283	50,284-60,340	60,341+
6	0-34,590	34,591-46,120	46,121-57,650	57,651-69,180	69,181+
7	0-39,010	39,011-52,013	52,014-65,017	65,018-78,020	78,021+
8	0-43,430	43,431-57,907	57,908-72,383	72,384-86,860	86,861+

*Please note that for each level there is a minimum fee charged per appointment: a nominal \$5 fee for Level A and more than the nominal fee for B, C, & D

How do I apply for the program?

Applying for the Sliding Fee Scale program is easy! Just pick up an application, fill it out, and return it to the clinic with proof of your income. Staff will review your application and determine if you qualify for the program and at what level.

Proof of Income

In order to qualify for the Sliding Fee Scale program, you will need to provide information about your family and your income. The proof of income must be returned to Sawtooth Mountain Clinic within 30 days of submitting the completed application. If you do not provide proof of income, your Sliding Fee Scale eligibility will end. **If you file taxes, we will need a copy of your 1040.** If you do not file taxes, contact the Sliding Fee Scale Program coordinator for assistance.

How long do I stay on the Sliding Fee Scale program once I am approved?

Enrollment in the Sliding Fee Scale program is good from June 1st of a given year to the next June 1st. All participants need to reapply and update their income each spring in order to remain on the program. If you have changes during the year with your household size and/or insurance coverage, please contact Sawtooth Mountain Clinic and ask to speak to the Sliding Fee Scale Program coordinator.

Once my application is approved, what exactly will the Sliding Scale program cover?

CT Scan: When done at North Shore Health Hospital and ordered by a SMC provider

Consultation (Initial outpatient): When a referral is made by a Sawtooth Mountain Clinic Provider

Dental: For medically necessary services provided by Grand Marais Family Dentistry

Laboratory tests: At North Shore Health Hospital, must be ordered by a SMC Provider

Mental health/Behavioral Health Services: With a referral from a Sawtooth Mountain Clinic Provider, visits may be scheduled with Kelly Senty, MS at Steps of Change or Sherri Moe, MS MFT PC

MRI: with Mobile Unit available at North Shore Health Hospital, when ordered by an SMC Provider

Physical and Occupational Therapy: At North Shore Health Hospital or with Becky Stoner, PT at the Grand Marais Wellness Center; PT and OT must be ordered by a SMC Provider.

Prescription drugs: Prescriptions obtained at the Grand Marais Pharmacy in Grand Marais are covered when a Sawtooth Mountain Clinic Provider writes the prescription. **Prescriptions are not covered** if they are written for items available over-the-counter, except for diabetic supplies – these are covered with a written prescription (yearly) from one of Sawtooth Mountain Clinic's providers.

Primary health care services: Must see a provider or nurse at SMC

X-ray and diagnostic tests: At North Shore Health Hospital, must be ordered by a SMC Provider

Vision Care: Basic vision exams up to twice per year as necessary when performed by St. Luke's Ophthalmology Associates located at North Shore Health Hospital. Sliding Fee Scale will **NOT** cover eyeglasses or contact lenses

Hearing Aid Assistance: For the purchase of hearing aids when arranged through hearing providers visiting SMC; assistance will be reviewed on a case by case basis and must be pre-approved

THE SLIDING FEE SCALE PROGRAM DOES NOT COVER emergency room, cardiac rehab, supplies, IV therapy, in-patient or observation at the hospital, nursing home charges or prescriptions while in the North Shore Health Care Center, or as an in-patient. Cook County North Shore Health Hospital does have a Community Care program available for patients who qualify.

How does billing work?

Sawtooth Mountain Clinic will bill your insurance (if any). After insurance has been processed, you will be responsible for the amount after the Sliding Fee Scale is applied to the total charge. You will then be billed by Sawtooth Mountain Clinic for what you owe.

The terms and limitations of the Sliding Fee Scale program are subject to change at any time.

If you need translation assistance, interpretive services are available in any language.

For more information about the Sliding Fee Scale program, please contact Sawtooth Mountain Clinic at (218)387-2330 and ask for Karen Katsmedas at ext. 113 ~~or Erin Watson at ext. 153.~~