



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Health System



Date: March 29, 2013
Board Meeting Date: April 23, 2013
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Jean S. Fraser, Chief, Health System
John Conley, Director, Public Health
Subject: Establishing Public Health Clinics Fees

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution establishing Public Health Clinics fees effective May 1, 2013

BACKGROUND:

The Public Health Clinics composed of the Mobile and the Edison Clinics have a long history of providing free medical services to homeless, uninsured, and low-income clients in San Mateo County. The Mobile Clinic provides services to underserved populations in the County and assists clients in accessing primary care services. The Edison Clinic provides clinical services for individuals with HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases.

In August 2009 your Board approved Public Health's request to set up Public Health Clinics fees effective September 1, 2009. In July 2010 your Board approved a request to add a provision to the schedule stating that in the event free vaccine is received by the County from the State only the \$35 administration fee would apply. In addition, fees were rounded up to the nearest dollar so that all the fees are in even amounts.

The fees do not cover the Clinics' actual costs but rather only serve to defray the direct cost of the program to the County. The fees are in line with those charged by the other California counties surveyed. Fees may be waived for any person who meets the eligibility criteria under the Federal Health Care for the Homeless Program and/or for persons clinically determined to be at risk for transmitting a communicable disease to others.

In FY 2011-12 the Public Health Clinics provided 7,179 units of service. Each unit of service equals one patient's visit.

DISCUSSION:

This revision adds four tests to the list of tests offered by the Clinics: HCV (Rapid Antibody) to test for the presence of Hepatitis C antibodies; and HIV (Rapid Antibody), HIV (Western Blot), and HIV (EIA) to test for the presence of the HIV antibodies.

Because the Public Health Clinics primarily serve the homeless, uninsured, and low-income clients throughout the County, the recommendation was made not to increase fees at this time even though County costs, mainly associated with medical personnel expenses, have increased.

The Resolution has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form.

Approval of this Resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by ensuring that vital public health clinical services are provided to residents of San Mateo County. It is anticipated that 50% of the referrals generated by the Mobile Clinic will result in follow-up appointments scheduled at the Mobile Clinic. This measure enables the Mobile Clinic to keep track of the type and the number of clients who return for follow-up appointments. It also complies with the requirements of the Uniform Data System Report measures for the Healthcare for the Homeless grant.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2012-13 Estimated	FY 2013-14 Projected
Percentage of referrals generated by the Mobile Clinic which result in follow-up appointments scheduled at the Mobile Clinic.	48%	50%

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed Public Health Clinic fees are not expected to generate new revenue. The fees for any vaccinations or medications are based on the cost to the County. The administrative costs were calculated by averaging the salaries of the clinical staff and dividing it by the average time to administer services. The total cost comes to \$38.76 per visit. The administrative fees are set at \$35 which is below the cost to provide the service. The County is prohibited from charging more than the actual cost to provide the service.

The Public Health Clinic FY 2012-13 Adopted Budget is \$2,089,982, of which \$1,272,239 is covered by Realignment from sales tax, \$429,591 is covered by grant and service reimbursements. The Net County Cost is \$388,152.