

PHN Fee for Service FAQs

1. Q: What is the Fee for Service form?

A: The Fee for Service or Request for Payment form is a checklist that contains the services with the corresponding amount. The Nurse providing the services will fill out the form and a copy will be given to the client.

2. Q: What is the Sliding Fee Scale?

A: Sliding scale fees are variable prices based on a client's ability to pay. Such fees are thereby reduced for those who have lower incomes or less money to spare after personal expenses regardless of income. Choosing the bracket that will apply to a client is based on income and family size, proof of income is not requested or required, it is based on self-declaration.

3. Q: Are IHS beneficiaries covered?

A: No, they are not.

4. Q: Will clients on Medicaid be charged for services?

A: No, clients on Medicaid will not be charged for services. However, clients must show their Medicaid Card as proof otherwise they will be charged until proven otherwise. Clients on Medicaid will go through the normal process wherein a fee will be assessed during the appointment but they will not be charged.

5. Q: What about clients on Medicare? Clients who have Private Insurance?

A: Clients on Medicare will be charged, except for services assessed under Medicare Part B. Clients who are covered by other insurances will be charged, but upon payment they can have their bills reimbursed through their insurance carriers.

6. Q: What brought about the changes in the PHN fee assessments and collection practices?

A: Health departments all across the country are charging fees for services, and many have also decreased services significantly as well in order to survive Federal and State budget cuts. The Division of Public Health needs to collect fees from those with the ability to pay for the services they receive and to bill 3rd party payers such as Medicaid to assure that the public health nursing services we now provide continue to be available to all Alaskans. Our goal is to act proactively to avoid the cuts to public health nursing services that are already affecting so many states.

7. Q: Will clients have a carryover bill from one visit to another?

A: Currently, if a client does not pay the balance due, there is no outstanding bill. The visit is considered closed. Previous balances will not affect the ability to see the client for future visits; no client will be denied service due to inability to pay or due to unpaid past visits.