



Wisconsin Volunteer Health Care Provider Liability Program

The Volunteer Health Care Provider (VHCP) program is a state program that provides liability coverage for licensed health professionals who volunteer their services to provide outpatient care at nonprofit agencies. In order to qualify for the VHCP program, the nonprofit agency is required to provide services primarily to uninsured individuals. Specifically, “the nonprofit agency shall provide health care services primarily to low-income persons who are uninsured and who are not recipients of...Medical Assistance or Medicare.” [Wis. Stat. § 146.89\(3\)\(d\)](#)

DHS Clarification:

To participate in the VHCP program, the nonprofit agency can provide services to individuals who are underinsured or have insurance, but the nonprofit agency must ensure more than 50% of their patient population is uninsured. Medicaid-certified health care providers, who otherwise meet the requirements of the VHCP program, may be eligible for the program. “Volunteer health care provider’ means an individual who...receives no income from the practice of his or her health care profession or who receives no income from the practice of that health care profession when providing services at the nonprofit agency specified under sub. (3) or for the school board or governing body specified under sub. (3r).” [Wis. Stat. § 146.89\(1\)\(r\)](#):

Patients who receive Medical Assistance or Medicare are considered to be insured individuals for the purpose of determining if the nonprofit agency is serving primarily low-income, uninsured patients.

Exception:

According to [Wis. Stat. § 146.89\(3m\)](#), a volunteer health care provider who is a dentist may provide dental services or a volunteer health care provider who is a dental hygienist may provide dental hygiene services to persons who are recipients of Medical Assistance, if all of the following apply:

- (a) The nonprofit agency's fees for these services apply to the recipients and to persons who are not recipients of Medical Assistance.
- (b) The agency accepts discounted payments, based on ability to pay, from the persons who are not Medical Assistance recipients.
- (c) The volunteer health care provider is certified under § 49.45(2)(a)11.a., the department has waived the requirement for certification, or the volunteer health care provider is not required to be certified under § 49.45(2)(a)11.a.