



Parkland

A Statement on Undocumented Patients at Parkland

There are numerous misstatements circulating on the Internet about Parkland's policies towards foreign-born citizens and non-citizens. The following is intended to set the record straight.

Parkland's Mandate

Created as a county hospital district by the state of Texas, and operating as mandated by the Texas State Legislature, Parkland is "to furnish medical aid and hospital care to indigent and needy persons residing in the hospital district."

Misinformation about Parkland's patient population

Numerous circulated reports state erroneously that a "patient survey" conducted in 2006 revealed that 70 percent of women who give birth at Parkland are "illegal immigrants." The data in question, reported in an article in *The Dallas Morning News*, was a calculation during a three-month period of labor and delivery patients who did not qualify for Medicaid. Some of these patients lacked immigration documentation and some did not.

Standard of Care

Caregivers at Parkland strive for one standard of care – excellence – for all patients. All who need care will receive it; not all will receive financial aid for their care. That determination is made based on whether they meet governmental requirements for assistance. Circulated misinformation about special treatment and free items that are provided to undocumented patients and not to citizens is not true. The Injury Prevention Center, a program that is housed at Parkland, provides classes on child safety, which includes a free car seat upon completion of the class. These classes are open to all qualified low-income residents of Dallas County.

Legal Prohibitions Against Discrimination

By law, Parkland is prohibited from differentiating on the basis of race, color, or national origin among persons in the types of programs, services, aid, or benefits we provide. See *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*, 42 U.S.C. §2000d, *et seq.*

The Federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) specifically states that a hospital with an emergency department must provide any individual who comes to its emergency department requesting an examination or treatment for a medical condition with an appropriate medical screening to determine whether or not an emergency condition exists. 42 U.S.C §1395dd(a) (emphasis added). If the individual is determined to have an emergency medical condition, including labor, the hospital must stabilize the patient, or transfer the individual to another medical facility under the guidelines set by law. 42 U.S.C. §1395dd(b) and (c).

Hospitals with specialized facilities such as burn units, shock-trauma centers, or neonatal intensive care units shall not refuse to accept an appropriate transfer of an individual who requires such specialized capabilities or facilities if the hospital has the capacity to treat the individual. 42 U.S.C. §1395dd(g).