



DPH and San Francisco General Hospital and  
Trauma Center...  
*A Strong and Effective Safety Net: An Essential  
Component of a Reformed Health Care System*



**Public Hospitals Represent the Kinds of Solutions Health Care Reform Seeks to Achieve**

- California's public hospitals are integrated delivery systems.
- We provide comprehensive, coordinated care for our patients.

**Health Care Reform Must Appropriately Finance Care to Low Income and Uninsured Populations**

**Medicaid DSH funds support multiple services:**

- **Critical Community Services:** DSH funds are used for life-saving treatments, such as trauma, burn and emergency care, as well as graduate medical education training of new doctors.
- **Medicaid Shortfalls:** The DSH program was established in part to help address inadequate Medicaid rates; California's Medicaid rates are among the lowest in the nation.
- **Care for Undocumented Patients:** DSH is the only source of federal Medicaid funding for California's public hospitals to treat undocumented people in need of care.

**Medicaid DSH Funding Levels Will Self-Adjust**

Current law includes a hospital-specific limit on Medicaid DSH funding. This annual cap automatically adjusts the amount of Medicaid DSH funding a hospital can receive in a given year. Therefore, when there are significant demonstrated reductions in the total uncompensated costs to public hospitals due to substantial implementation of health care reform, the existing cap would limit the amount of Medicaid DSH funding that public hospitals would receive.

**The Safety Net—Offering Solutions in Patient Care...**

California's public hospital systems strongly support federal health care reform and health coverage for all Americans. In a reformed system, public hospitals will continue to be central to the state's health care system as access points for many patients seeking quality care, and safety net systems have expertise in treating those populations to whom coverage will be extended.

In fact, public hospitals embody the types of successful systems that health care reform is seeking to encourage: systems that succeed in reining in costs without sacrificing quality of care. Public hospitals, like SFGH, are systems of care that offer outpatient, inpatient and emergency services. They work to coordinate services to improve patients' experiences and health outcomes. Public hospital systems' culture strongly emphasizes patient care over financial revenues.

With significant uncompensated costs, public hospital systems create efficiencies and contain costs whenever possible. SFGH has become a leader in implementing evidence-based, quality improvement processes to provide higher quality and more efficient services to its patient populations.

For example, SFGH and the Department of Public Health offer patients medical homes and chronic disease management—proven models of quality, accessible and efficient care that have been shown to improve patients' health and reduce emergency room use.

**California's Essential Public Hospitals...**

California's 19 public hospital systems represent the core of the state's health care safety net, delivering care to all who need it, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status. Though just six percent of all hospitals statewide, public hospitals serve 2.5 million Californians each year and provide nearly half of all hospital care to the state's 6.6 million uninsured.

**SFGH treats approximately 100,000 people each year; more than 25% of those patients are uninsured.**

California's essential public hospital systems deliver 10 million outpatient visits per year and operate more than half of the state's top-level trauma centers and almost half of the state's burn centers. Forty-three percent of new doctors in the state are trained in public hospitals. Public hospitals provide nearly a third of all hospital care to the state's Medi-Cal program, and 36 percent of all hospital-based outpatient services.

**SFGH, the only trauma center in San Francisco, has more than 500,000 outpatient visits each year, and over 50,000 Emergency Department visits, 18% of which result in an admission. Twenty-six percent of SFGH inpatients and 34% of its outpatients are uninsured; 34% of its inpatients and 28% of its outpatients receive Medi-Cal. SFGH provides a third of UCSF's physician training.**



# SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL and TRAUMA CENTER

**MISSION: TO PROVIDE QUALITY HEALTHCARE AND TRAUMA SERVICES WITH COMPASSION AND RESPECT**

## WHY IS SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL IMPORTANT?

San Francisco General Hospital & Trauma Center is a 539-bed licensed general acute care hospital which is owned and operated by the City & County of San Francisco, Department of Public Health. SFGH provides a full complement of inpatient, outpatient, emergency, skilled nursing, diagnostic, mental health, and rehabilitation services for adults and children. SFGH is the only trauma center (Level I) in the City and County of San Francisco, serving 1.5 million residents of San Francisco and northern San Mateo County.



### SFGH BY THE NUMBERS per year

100,000 Patients Treated

529,098 Outpatient Visits

16,031 Inpatient Admissions

10 Operating Rooms

6,800+ Procedures

48% of Procedures were  
Emergency

1,200+ Babies Born

51,000 Emergency  
Department Visits

20% of all acute inpatient  
care in San Francisco

30% of all ambulance traffic

- **San Francisco General Hospital is the Heart of San Francisco.** We save lives. We serve the City's community health needs. We fight diseases. We teach new doctors and nurses and lead new health care innovation. And we serve you in times of emergency.



- **San Francisco General Hospital is where miracles happen.** If you're severely injured, you'll be cared for at our world-class trauma center (Level 1) where staff is ready 24/7 to deliver the comprehensive treatment you need to stay alive.

- **San Francisco General Hospital provides specialty and hospital care for Healthy San Francisco,** the City's innovative program to provide uninsured residents with access to affordable, quality health care.

- **San Francisco General is a teaching hospital.** We provide a third of UCSF's physician training. Our hospital is home to 20 research centers and labs used to benefit patients worldwide.



- **San Francisco General is on the frontline in the battle against rapidly spreading disease,** and it's where you and your family will be treated if you are injured in a major disaster.

### SFGH Unique Services & Innovative Programs

- Only Trauma Center (Level 1) in San Francisco
- Only Psychiatric Emergency Services in San Francisco
- Largest acute & rehabilitation hospital for psychiatric patients
- Only Baby Friendly hospital in SF certified by the World Health Organization
- Stroke certification by The Joint Commission
- Only ACE (Acute Care for Elders) unit in California
- e-Referral web-based system for specialty care
- Orthopaedic Trauma Institute Surgical Training Facility
- Video Medical Interpretation/Telemedicine services in over 20 languages