I. Policy

All students enrolled at the University of South Carolina Columbia campus are eligible for care at Student Health Services (SHS). Faculty, staff, and visitors are also eligible for limited access to services at Student Health Services. All full-time and some part-time students are required by the Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina to pay a student health fee which provides a basic level of prepaid health care services. Fees are charged for those services which are not fully covered by the health fee. See University Policy STAF 7.08 Student Health Fee (http://www.sc.edu/policies/ppm/staf708.pdf).

A. The Student Health Center offers a comprehensive health care program to students of the University of South Carolina. Eligibility to receive care at Student Health Services is determined by enrollment status. Students are eligible for treatment as defined below:

1. Graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in 1 or more credit hours during fall or spring semesters.

2. Enrolled continuing students registered for the fall and spring semesters but not registered for classes during the summer are eligible for services during the summer on a fee-for-service basis.

3. Newly entering students (freshmen and transfers) eligible to enroll in classes. Eligibility is effective ninety (90) days prior to the start of the newly entering student’s initial academic term to allow for pre-matriculation and other healthcare services related to enrollment (i.e. Immunization).

4. Former students and spouses may receive medical care for 30 days and counseling services for 60 days after the last day of class for transition of care on a fee-for-service basis.
5. English Program for Internationals (EPI) students

6. Sponsored groups

7. Postdoctoral fellows not employed by the university and dissertation students enrolled in 1 or more credit hours.

B. Faculty, staff, visiting students, spouses of eligible students and/or visitors to campus are eligible for treatment for limited services as defined below. Payment is on a fee for service basis only; with no health fee option. Payment is expected at time of service.

1. Visiting Students: For the duration of the program or event attended, and only for acute episodic care. Participants must be verified by the department, event, or class list.

   a. Orientation/commencement participants (including parents)

   b. Visiting athletic teams and athletic recruits

   c. Visiting students who are taking classes

   d. Visiting study abroad students

2. Faculty and staff: Only for the duration of employment at the University

   a. University employee occupational health services only as approved/requested by the department

   b. University Faculty/Staff/Retired Faculty - flu vaccine only (no spouses and/or dependents)

   c. University employee Workers’ Compensation

   e. Campus Wellness profiles through the State Health Plan

   f. University faculty/staff may use and are encouraged to use the ancillary services with SHS. These services only include: lab, X-ray, pharmacy, allergy/immunization and travel consultations. All services are provided on a fee-for-service basis. Payment is expected at time of service.

   g. SHS has a variety of wellness and promotion services for faculty and staff. Services are listed on the SHS web site (https://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/).
h. SHS also provides advocacy services to faculty/staff who are victims/survivors of interpersonal violence. These services are listed on SHS web site (https://www.sa.sc.edu/shs/).

3. Spouses of currently enrolled students may use Student Health Services on a fee-for-service basis with the exception of Counseling and Psychiatry (CAP). Spouses of enrolled students may only be seen through CAP as part of a couple’s session. Spouses must obtain a spouse ID card and present it at time of services. Payment is expected at time of service.

D. The following are defined as not eligible for treatment at Student Health Services unless found eligible under another category:

1. Alumni of USC
2. Guests of the Inn at University of South Carolina hotel and restaurants
3. Post docs (employed) and spouses
4. Visiting professors and spouses (faculty working on grants, projects, teaching, etc.)
5. Non-official visitors to campus (delivery/contract workers/repairmen, friends, visiting students)
6. Attendees at University of South Carolina sporting events
7. Community members

E. As a responsible healthcare institution, Student Health Services provides urgent, first aid care for visitors who may or may not be eligible for care. Those not eligible for care, as defined above, are referred or transferred to public health care providers following immediate first aid care. A referral list of providers is maintained for this purpose. Urgently ill people are referred to triage for nursing evaluation, first aid, and preparation for transfer. Questions about medical urgency are referred to triage for evaluation and disposition.

II. Procedure

A. Eligibility status is verified by clinical support staff before an appointment is scheduled and before an individual enters the system as a patient.

B. Students and spouses are required to show current Carolina Card as evidence of identity. In cases of urgent need for medical care, a patient may be identified as eligible with picture ID and verified using the University student database or Student Health Services
electronic health records system. Others who may be eligible are identified by Carolina Card or evidence of participation in an eligible program.

C. Students maintain eligibility:

1. during winter break if enrolled in the fall semester

2. ten days prior to the start of the fall/spring semester. This allows students the opportunity to obtain care that may assist in their matriculation to the university and for those students that may arrive early for sanctioned university activities (band, athletics, etc).

3. thirty days after their last enrolled date for medical visits to the SHS on a fee-for-service basis (this grace period is to allow transition to community providers and is not intended for routine care and establishing care). Payment is required at time of service.

4. sixty days after their last enrolled date for visits to Counseling and Psychiatry Services on a fee-for-services basis (this grace period is to allow transition to community providers and is not intended for routine care and establishing care). Payment is required at time of service.

D. Eligibility to use Student Health Services may be extended, on a case-by-case basis, to students who are forced to withdraw from the university for medical reasons or other conditions.

E. The Executive Director of Student Health Services may adjust or modify extended eligibility policies and procedures to meet special situations or circumstances.

III. Related Policies

University Policy STAF 7.08 Student Health Fee

IV. Reason for Policy Revision

Policy updated to reflect current practice.