

History

After treating a large number of Amish and Conservative Mennonites in his practice, Dr. Edwin L Nirdlinger PhD, MD became aware

of the difficulty these patients had obtaining quality care at a reasonable cost. With the idea of helping these Anabaptist communities, Dr. Nirdlinger along with Wolfgang Drescher JD, LLM formed the non-profit foundation Immergrün, Inc.

Purpose

The foundation serves Amish, Mennonites and others who, because of their religious beliefs, do not have medical insurance.

Immergrün works as a patient advocate to obtain good quality medical care at rates that are affordable and to eliminate problems patients can experience when dealing directly with hospitals and physicians.

Immergrün also promotes the health of individuals and communities through education and other preventive measures.

Immergrün is consistently receiving positive responses from our patients regarding prices and the quality of care received. While patients are in the Toledo area, Immergrün provides local housing for patients, families and their drivers at a reasonable cost.

How does Immergrün work?

Immergrün negotiates hospital and physician fees based on Medicare rates. These rates are calculated to give a well-run hospital a reasonable profit and to motivate the hospital to be run efficiently.

Hospitals usually offer patients without insurance a discount off billed charges. Even a 30-50% discount is small when you consider most bills are 3-4 times the hospitals' actual cost.

After we reach an agreement with a hospital, patients with Immergrün identification cards will be billed based on Medicare rates. The bill will be sent to Immergrün who then bills the patient.

Immergrün is not an insurance company with lots of money. We depend on the patient or, if the patient can't afford the cost of the care, the patient's church to pay the bill promptly.

How do I get an Immergrün identification card?

Immergrün identification card applications are being made available through church deacons. The deacons will verify that the person is, indeed, a member of the church and that the church will help the patient if their bills are more than they can afford. Applications can be requested by call Immergrün at 1-800-333-3561.

How do I use the Immergrün identification card?

When you go to the participating facility or physician present your card (one card per family). The facility will bill Immergrün directly for

the services provided. Immergrün will review the bill and pay at the bill at the contracted price. Immergrün will then bill you. It is important that you pay Immergrün promptly when you receive your statement, since we don't have a large cash reserve and we must pay the facilities promptly in order to continue receiving our negotiated discounts.

The identification card will be accepted at any participating facility. For example: you live in Iowa but need medical care in Ohio. You would be able to use the card at any participating facility in Ohio. As we grow and add more facilities, so will your access to medical care.

There are no hospitals near where I live, so why do I need to sign up for an identification card?

Hospitals negotiate with insurance companies on a daily basis. Insurance companies have members who have their plan. Their members are their negotiating power.

The more members, the better able they are able to negotiate lower prices. In our negotiations with hospitals one of the first questions we are asked is, "how many patients will utilize our facility?"

The best way to answer this question is to make sure every family possible has an identification card. The benefit for the patient is you already have the card when we do negotiate a contract in your area.

Also, if you are ever away from home and need care, you will have access to any Immergrün facility near you.



Immergrün, Inc. is a non-profit organization directed by Anabaptists. Our goals are to negotiate quality health care for Anabaptists who don't have health insurance and to educate Anabaptists of means

of staying healthy.

Immergrün began offering care at Toledo hospitals in 2002. We also offer a newsletter and health classes to interested Anabaptist groups.

Our efforts to obtain agreements with hospitals and doctors closer to Anabaptist communities have resulted in agreements with:

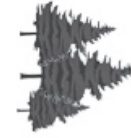
- **University of Iowa Hospital, Iowa City, IA**
- **Defiance Regional Medical Center, Defiance, OH**
- **Mercy Hospital, Willard, OH**
- **Mercy Medical Center, Canton, OH**
- **Toledo Hospital, Toledo, OH**
- **Toledo Children's Hospital, Toledo, OH**
- **Flower Hospital, Sylvania, OH**
- **Bay Park Community Hospital, Oregon, OH**
- **Fostoria Community Hospital, Fostoria, OH**
- **Wooster Eye Clinic, Wooster, OH**

To better serve you, we are continuously working to contract with additional facilities.

Questions?

Call 1-800-333-3561,
visit www.immergrun.org or
write to Immergrün at:

**7318 International Drive, Suite D
Holland, OH 43528**



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Immergrün, Inc.

A not-for-profit,
Anabaptist-directed
organization.

***“Quality care at
affordable prices”***

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