How to avoid health care sticker shock

• The cost for the exact same medical treatment or procedure can be very different from one place to another.

• Whether you have insurance with a deductible and co-insurance, or you are uninsured and pay out-of-pocket, it’s good to compare average costs and quality ahead of time.

• You can look up costs for many common medical procedures at CompareMaine.

• Always find out if the facility is in your insurance plan’s network.

• Always ask your provider about the cost of services in advance.

• The Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO), and the Maine Quality Forum (MQF), work together to put this information online for the public.

Here’s what you can find on CompareMaine:

Over 200 health care procedures
From childbirth to knee replacement surgery to blood tests.

Costs
The amount the facility typically gets paid by the insurer including member cost sharing for a medical procedure. See the average payments made by the top five insurers (including consumer payments) to facilities. Cost data are not included for MaineCare (Medicaid) or Medicare.

Patient experience
Facilities are rated by their patients on their overall experience and quality of care.

Patient safety
Facilities are rated on their ability to prevent serious complications. Facilities are rated on how well they keep patients safe from infections.
How to use the CompareMaine website:

1. Enter procedure: Use common name (e.g., low back pain) or procedure code (CPT code) from your doctor.

2. Search fields: Choose insurance company, region, and distance.

3. Results: See facility locations, patient ratings, and cost comparison.

Cost estimates on this graphic are based on typical payments by insurance companies (2014-2015 claims) and do not represent what you should expect to pay. N/A means that there is no data available to report because: (1) the data is not applicable (2) there is not enough data, or (3) the facility chose not to report.

contact information

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CompareMaine is for informational purposes only. MHDO has made every effort to provide accurate information. Cost estimates are based on typical payments and do not represent what you should expect to pay. Consult your provider and insurer to get a personalized estimate. Neither MHDO nor this website endorse any particular healthcare facility or physician in the State of Maine.