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NH Insurance Department's NHHealthCost.org Website Online, Major Enhancements Planned

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Insurance Department's renowned website NHHealthCost.org is back online after a hiatus, allowing New Hampshire residents to make informed decisions about common health care procedures by comparing rates at health care providers throughout the state on services such as knee surgeries, colonoscopies, MRIs, CT scans, ultrasounds, and X-rays.

NHHealthCost, which was created by the Insurance Department in 2007, uses paid claims data collected from New Hampshire's health insurers to show patients (both insured and uninsured) an estimated price for a procedure. Patients are able to access the total costs of their procedures, including physician fees, lab fees, and facility fees. New Hampshire residents can use the site to find out expected charges – and out-of-pocket costs – and see how they vary among hospitals and outpatient facilities.

"NHHealthCost was the first website in the country to provide this level of health care cost information to consumers, and it has received national acclaim for doing so," said New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Seigny. "We are working on enhancing the website over the coming year to add more procedures and new information for consumers."

Tyler Brannen, health policy analyst for the New Hampshire Insurance Department and the site's creator, says additions to the NHHealthCost site over the next year will include cost information for dozens more procedures, including rates for laboratory services, dental care, prescription drugs, and out-of-state services. The site also will include more resources for New Hampshire residents, including information on how to use insurance benefits and navigating the health care delivery system.

The site was offline for several months this year while the Department worked through challenges with an outside company it had hired to capture raw claims data from health insurers and consolidate that information into a database.

"We are happy to report that NHHealthCost will grow over the coming year as a source of vital information for health care consumers in New Hampshire," Brannen said.

In 2010, the Insurance Department was awarded The Innovation in Data Dissemination Award for the site by the National Association of Health Data Organizations.

The website can be found at www.NHHealthCost.org.

The New Hampshire Insurance Department's mission is to promote and protect the public good by ensuring the existence of a safe and competitive insurance marketplace through the development and enforcement of the insurance laws of the State of New Hampshire. For more information, visit www.nh.gov/insurance.