



The State of New Hampshire Insurance Department

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News Release

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

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Wide variation in costs reported for New Hampshire hospitals

Concord, NH—The New Hampshire Insurance Department (NHID) has released today a report entitled “New Hampshire Acute Care Hospital Comparison” which details variation in costs for services from NH hospitals. The goal of the report was to better understand the relative costs of both inpatient and outpatient medical services provided by NH’s hospitals using a “basket of services” approach. The report was commissioned by the NH Citizens Health Initiative (CHI) as part of its efforts to promote transparency within New Hampshire’s health care system.

The report shows wide variation in costs reported for NH hospital inpatient and outpatient services. Spere Memorial Hospital was noted to be 19% below the average of all NH hospitals and Exeter Hospital was 52% above the NH average. This report is intended to be useful for employers and their employees as they consider healthcare purchasing decisions. The report will be distributed to CHI stakeholders and the NH Purchasers Group on Health (www.nhpgh.org), whose members comprise the State of New Hampshire Employee Health Benefits Program, the Local Government Center HealthTrust, the University System of New Hampshire, and the New Hampshire School Health Care Coalition.

“The Insurance Department is pleased to be able to support statewide healthcare system transparency efforts,” stated Roger Sevigny, Commissioner, NHID. “This report is a critical addition to the NH HealthCost website released 18 months ago (www.nhhealthcost.org).”

“We had some idea that there was variation in hospital pricing,” said Stephen Reno, Chancellor, University System of New Hampshire and founding member of the NH Purchasers Group on Health, “but this report presents new information at a level of detail that is very helpful as we consider future health benefit and cost containment strategies.”

“The partnership the NH Citizens Health Initiative has with the NH Insurance Department is critical and is resulting in high quality reporting efforts such as this report,” added Paul Spiess, Co-Chair, CHI. “The importance of this information is not to be underestimated as employers and consumers try to grapple with the high costs of healthcare services.”

The New Hampshire Insurance Department is the regulatory body for the New Hampshire insurance industry. The NHID develops reports and online resources for employers, insurers, and consumers.

For more information visit www.nh.gov/insurance or contact Tyler Brannen, Health Care Statistician, NH Insurance Department at 271-7973.

The NH Citizens Health Initiative seeks to create a system of care that promotes health, where quality is assured and care is accessible, affordable, effective, and safe. For further information visit www.steppingupnh.org or contact Patrick Miller, Senior Staff, NH Citizens Health Initiative at 536-4265.

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