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Insurance Department Announces Redesign, Major Updates to NHHealthCost.org Website

CONCORD, NH – The New Hampshire Insurance Department announces major consumer-oriented updates to its nationally recognized health transparency website, NHHealthCost.org.

NH HealthCost, which was created by the Insurance Department in 2007, uses actual paid claims data, collected from the state’s health insurers, to show prices for health care procedures at facilities across the state. The website allows people to see the total costs of their procedures, including physician fees, lab fees, and facility fees, based on their insurance type, deductible, and coinsurance (or the amount they would pay if they were uninsured). The site’s goal is to give people knowledge about the real cost of their care so they can make informed choices about how and where to spend their health care dollars.

“These updates to our renowned HealthCost website give New Hampshire residents even greater transparency on health care costs in the state,” said New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny. “People in the Granite State do their research before any important purchase, such as buying a car. They ought to have that same right when it comes to their health care expenses. Through our redesigned NH HealthCost website, people can now find the best prices statewide on 67 medical procedures and 16 dental procedures, as well as information on 65 prescription medications.”

Updates to the NH HealthCost website include:

Procedures:

- The site features 31 new medical procedure costs
- 16 dental cost estimates
- Pharmacy retail charges for 35 brand name drugs and 30 generic drugs.
- Searchable lab tests as well as an averages report
- Physical therapy
- Behavioral health
- Chiropractic care
- Sleep studies

Quality of care: This new section offers a convenient way to see nationally available quality data on local health care facilities, such as infection rates, patient experience, and readmissions. The goal is to level out price disparities between providers and to increase the quality of care that patients can expect to receive.

A Guide to Health Insurance: The guide features frequently asked questions about getting health insurance, navigating the insurance system, and how to manage costs. The guide is interactive: Users can submit their own questions and give feedback on the information presented.

New Hampshire is considered a national leader in health care transparency. In 2015, it was the only state in the country to earn an A in a national report card on access to health care prices, issued by two nonprofit organizations that focus on health care reform. The report card cited NH HealthCost.org as “a prime example of a price transparency website built with consumers in mind.”

“We commend New Hampshire for the effort it has put into the site and urge other states to use NH HealthCost as a model when developing price information for their residents,” said the report, developed by the organizations Catalyst for Payment Reform and Health Care Incentives Institute. (More information: <http://www.nh.gov/insurance/media/pr/2015/documents/070915.pdf>)

The New Hampshire Insurance Department developed NH HealthCost with the help of the University of New Hampshire, the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and many other interested parties in the public and private sectors.

The website: 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.

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