

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Eireann Aspell, outreach coordinator; (603) 271-3781; eireann.aspell@ins.nh.gov

NHHealthCost.org Now Offering Side-by-Side Comparisons of Health Care Costs and Quality

Concord, NH – NHHealthCost.org launched new features today that allow site visitors to simultaneously compare the cost and quality of health care facilities, making it easier than ever for consumers to choose the high value care for their families.

Along with a streamlined interface and updated rate information, consumers can now use side-by-side comparisons showing cost and quality results by provider for dozens of common medical procedures such as MRIs, CT scans and surgeries. Results include costs for physicians and other staff, hospital or outpatient facility fees and additional costs associated with the test or treatment.

“For more than a decade, NHHealthCost.org has helped New Hampshire residents compare costs of medical services and treatments,” New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Seigny said. “These new features make it easy for site visitors to compare the value of their care which is the important intersection of cost and quality.”

Today’s enhancements are the latest in a series of updates based on feedback from site users including New Hampshire consumers and employers. In late 2017, the site added a section for employers showing health plan comparisons and offering resources on health insurance to share with employees.

“New Hampshire businesses can use the NH HealthCost website to compare health insurance options and choose the right plan for their employees,” said Governor Chris Sununu. “It’s another way the State of New Hampshire is making it easier to do business.”

“Employers are spending more than ever to provide health benefits to their employees,” said Laurette Edelman, Assistant Director at the NH Center for Non-Profits, which brings together non-profit employers around the state. “They trust the insurance department to provide fair, accurate information and we appreciate how NHHealthCost.org turns complex data into easy-to-use, actionable information.”

NHHealthCost.org uses paid claims data collected from New Hampshire’s health insurers to show insured and uninsured patients’ estimated costs on more than 100 medical services and dozens of dental procedures. Hospital quality data is provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Health plan comparisons are based on insurance department data and well-respected national organizations including the National Committee on Quality Assurance.

“As a physician, there’s nothing more important to me than my patients receiving the care they need,” said Dr. Claire Reed, Chief Medical Officer of Mid-State Health Center, a federally-qualified health center serving Bristol and Plymouth. “Unfortunately, the high cost of health care often makes it difficult for my patients to afford the tests and treatments I recommend. Even patients with insurance are paying a bigger portion of their health care costs out-of-pocket. NHHealthCost.org gives patients the opportunity to compare costs and quality and make the right decision for their families.”

Many New Hampshire residents with health insurance spent an average of \$1,050 on copayments, coinsurance and deductibles in 2015, the department’s 2016 Annual Report on Cost Trend Drivers

found. This did not include premiums. In a recent national survey, more than 50% of insured would use credit cards, loan or not pay an unexpected \$500 medical bill, the Kaiser Family Foundation reported.

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 <http://www.nh.gov/insurance>.