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New Hampshire One of Only 2 States to Receive ‘A’ Rating for Price Transparency

CONCORD, NH — New Hampshire has again received national accolades for helping people make informed health care choices, according to an annual report card developed by two nonprofit organizations focused on health reform.

“Maine and New Hampshire both received an A this year, as they had in 2017,” stated the organizations Catalyst for Payment Reform and the Source on Healthcare Price and Competition, at the University of California Hastings College of Law. The report card gave 34 states an F because they either did not have an All Payer Claims Database “or they did not mandate consumer-friendly, public-facing price transparency websites.” New Hampshire has received an A rating every year except once since 2012.

New Hampshire’s success derives from its free health price transparency website, NHHealthCost.org, which was developed by the New Hampshire Insurance Department in 2007. The website uses actual, anonymous claims data from insurance companies to show patients estimated costs for more than 100 medical procedures at facilities around the state.

“NHHealthCost was groundbreaking when the website was first setup, and we are excited to see continued recognition for New Hampshire’s leadership nationally” said the Insurance Department’s Director of Health Economics, Tyler Brannen. “The challenge with finding a solution to high health care prices is massive, but we are pleased to offer a tool that will help the market function more efficiently and lower costs for consumers.”

NH HealthCost shows an estimate of the total costs of a procedure, including physician, lab, and facility fees that take into account your insurance carrier or whether you are uninsured. New Hampshire residents can use the site to compare the price of health care services, including estimates for out-of-pocket costs – and see how they vary among doctors, hospitals, and outpatient facilities.

In addition to medical cost comparison, the NH HealthCost website also includes several other features to help consumers and employers make decisions about how to spend their health care dollars:

- **Quality of Care** 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 increase the quality of care that patients can expect to receive.
- **A Guide to Health Insurance** features frequently asked questions about getting health insurance, navigating the insurance system, and how to manage costs. Users can submit their own questions and give feedback on the information presented.
- **Employer Resources** includes downloadable toolkits, educational content, and other transparency information about health insurers. These resources provide information to employers to about health insurance companies’ network designs and cost-sharing requirements so they can choose the right health plan option for their organization.
To read the full 2020 State Price Transparency Report Card:


The New Hampshire Insurance Department Can Help

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. Contact us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your insurance coverage at 1-800- 852-3416 or (603) 271-2261, or by email at consumerservices@ins.nh.gov. For more information, visit www.nh.gov/insurance.

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