

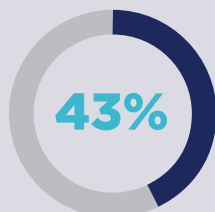
Transparency in Health Care

A Top Issue for Patients, Consumers, and Employers

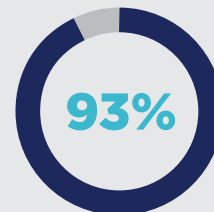


\$26,993

Average family **premium** in 2025, up 6% year over year



Of **voters** say lowering health care costs is the #1 issue — ahead of housing, jobs, immigration, and crime



Of **voters** say it's important Congress and the President act to lower health costs

Higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs are putting significant pressure on both consumers and employers. A major flaw of the health care system is its lack of transparency.

Advancing price transparency helps patients, employers and policymakers better understand health care prices, what's driving health care costs, and how to make health care more affordable.

THE CORE PROBLEM

Health care prices are often invisible until the bill arrives

For most Americans, the price of medical care isn't clear until the bill arrives, making it difficult for patients and employers to plan, compare, or avoid overpaying for care. In order for families, businesses, and policymakers to understand and fix the problem of high health care prices with commonsense solutions that work, we need more complete and transparent information on price, quality, and other aspects of our health care system. This lack of clear, usable pricing information limits competition, leads to wide variation in prices for the same care, and allows some hospitals to exploit this opacity by engaging in predatory billing practices.

Same care. Vastly different prices. →

Without price transparency, the same procedure may cost wildly different amounts depending on where you receive it.



Unfortunately, without price transparency, health care is just unaffordable for many small businesses and their employees: 20 to 30% year-over-year insurance premium hikes are becoming common and will likely continue. Premiums that are equivalent to mortgage payments aren't sustainable.”

Tom Tacheny | Diatom Advisory
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



A C-section delivery in the Boston metro area ranges from

\$5,700 to \$23,800



A blood test in El Paso metro area ranges from

\$144 to \$952

Rules exist. But compliance is lacking by hospitals.

Congress and the Administration have taken steps to improve price transparency, but compliance by hospitals remains low, and progress has fallen short. Hospital price data is often difficult to access, lacks consistent

standards, and is frequently incomplete—limiting its usefulness for patients and employers. Weak adherence by hospitals to federal requirements further undermines the integrity of available data.

Advancing price transparency requires action from Congress and the Administration



WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

Codify and strengthen existing hospital price transparency requirements

- ✓ **Standardize data** to enhance usability and access.
- ✓ **Strengthen enforcement** tools against hospitals.
- ✓ **Require disclosure** by hospitals of negotiated rates in clear dollar amounts.
- ✓ **Increase penalties for noncompliance** to motivate compliance and eliminate the current cap on fines.



WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION CAN DO

Enforce the rules

The Trump Administration can act now to:

- ✓ **Require hospitals to disclose all prices** in clear dollar amounts alongside any relevant formulas or percentages of Medicare.
- ✓ **Impose financial penalties on hospitals and health systems** that are noncompliant or partially compliant with price transparency rules.
- ✓ **Increase penalties for noncompliance** by hospitals to motivate compliance and eliminate the current cap on fines.

Recent progress shows what's possible.

Site-of-service billing transparency, enacted January 2026

[Congress](#) took an important, incremental step forward in 2026 by requiring off-campus hospital outpatient departments to have a unique National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) starting January 1, 2028. Once implemented, this policy will meaningfully improve transparency by shedding light on where care is delivered and how outpatient services are billed. The focus must now shift to strong implementation so payers and researchers can fully use NPI data to identify all claims tied to a single service and better understand outpatient care costs and utilization.

Administration Issues 519 Notices to Noncompliant Hospitals

The [Administration](#) recently ramped up its enforcement activity by sending over 500 warning letters or Corrective Action Plan requests to hospitals deemed out of compliance with the Hospital Price Transparency Rule. Under current rules, a warning letter from CMS puts a hospital on 90-day notice to correct deficiencies in its machine-readable file. A request for a corrective action plan requires the hospital, instead, to submit a detailed plan within 45 days for addressing compliance deficiencies. These notices demonstrate commitment by the administration to rigorously enforce existing price transparency rules.

By strengthening price transparency, policymakers can take a foundational step toward improving competition, lowering costs, and ensuring Americans receive high-quality, affordable care.