

Price Variation Report

Prices Vary by 10 Times Within the Same Hospitals
and Vary by 31 Times Across Hospitals Within the Same
States for Common Medical Procedures

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PatientRightsAdvocate.org (PRA) analyzed 100 hospital pricing files from its July 2023 Fifth Semi-Annual Hospital Price Transparency Rule Compliance Report to determine price variations both within the same hospitals and across hospitals in the same states for five common medical services. PRA evaluated prices for the following procedures: Appendectomy (MS-DRG 343), Arthroscopic Knee Surgery (CPT 29877), Caesarean Section (MS-DRG 788), Cataract Surgery (CPT 66984), and MRI of Lower Extremity Without Contrast (CPT 73721). The 100 hospital files examined represent a subset of hospitals in the following ten states: California, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Vermont.

The pricing data disclosed in hospital pricing files reveals significant price variations for the same care at the same hospitals and across hospitals in the same states. Within the same hospitals, prices vary by an average range of 10.7 times for the same procedures when comparing insurance plan negotiated rates. Expanding the analysis across hospitals in the same states, prices vary by an average range of 31.3 times when comparing hospitals and insurance plan negotiated rates.

Prices by procedure vary within the same hospitals from a minimum average of 5.9 times for a Caesarian Section to a maximum average of 18.6 times for an MRI of Lower Extremity Without Contrast. Across hospitals in the same states, prices by procedure vary from a minimum average of 18.0 times for a Caesarian Section to a maximum average of 42.7 times for cataract surgery.

Individual hospital pricing data reveal substantial price variations for the same procedures that far exceed the averages listed above. The maximum price variation within the same hospitals is 32 times for an Appendectomy at Montefiore Medical Center Moses in the Bronx, New York City, New York (\$1,960 for a Medicare plan to \$63,271 for a commercial plan). The maximum price variation across hospitals in the same states is 136 times for Cataract Surgery in California (\$119 for a Medicaid plan at Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno to \$16,193 for several commercial plans at Mercy Hospital Downtown Bakersfield). (See table below.)

Minimum to Maximum and Average Price Variations of Common Medical Services Within the Same Hospitals and Across Hospitals in the Same States

| | Average Variation for All Procedures | Appendectomy (MS-DRG 343) | Arthroscopic Knee Surgery (CPT 29877) | Caesarean Section (MS-DRG 788) | Cataract Surgery (CPT 66984) | MRI of Lower Extremity Without Contrast (CPT 73721) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Within the Same Hospitals | Min to Max Variation | 5x to 32x | 3x to 13x | 3x to 8x | 5x to 9x | 11x to 27x |
| | Average Variation | 10.7x | 16.3x | 6.0x | 5.9x | 6.8x |
| Across Hospitals in Same States | Min to Max Variation | 6x to 90x | 12x to 57x | 4x to 80x | 9x to 136x | 16x to 78x |
| | Average Variation | 31.3x | 34.7x | 26.7x | 18.0x | 42.7x |

Source: Hospital pricing files evaluated in PatientRightsAdvocate.org's July 2023 Fifth Semi-Annual Hospital Price Transparency Compliance Report. Links to hospital price files available in Appendix

Figure 1. Minimum to maximum and average price variation of common medical services within the same hospitals and across hospitals in the same state.

PRA also analyzed the discounted cash prices in hospital pricing files and found that such cash prices are often far lower than insured negotiated rates. Arthroscopic Knee Surgery is available at CHI Saint Joseph Health Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, for \$750 in cash, 50 times less than the \$37,389 maximum insured negotiated rate at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital in Somerset, Kentucky, 75 miles away. An MRI of Lower Extremity Without Contrast is available at Monroe Hospital in Bloomington, Indiana, for \$217 in cash, 19 times less than the \$4,056 maximum insured negotiated rate at Bluffton Regional Medical Center in Bluffton, Indiana, 162 miles away.

These wide price variations for the same care in the same hospitals or states reveal the discriminatory and inequitable pricing practices of hospitals and health insurers. Healthcare consumers, including employers and unions, are paying an average of 10.7 times more than the patient in the bed next to them for the same common care.

Contrast this wide price variation to the price of gasoline, which is transparent and trusted and therefore only varies by a few cents a gallon across stations for the same product. If the price of gas varied by 10.7 times, consumers would pay \$535 for a \$50 fill-up. In extreme examples, such as the Appendectomy at Montefiore Moses in New York City that varies by 32 times, consumers would pay \$1,600 for the same service at the same station. The 136 times difference in Cataract Surgery prices in California equates to paying \$6,800 for a tank of gas that can be acquired for \$50 elsewhere in the state.

This opaque dynamic is not tolerated in any other part of the economy than healthcare. Yet because consumers don't know healthcare prices, they don't know this discriminatory pricing is happening to them every time they receive care. Only by informing the public of actual hospital prices can these wide price variations converge and fall. Only with price transparency will hospital prices be trusted like gas prices are today.

These vast price variations demonstrate the urgent need for actual hospital prices so healthcare consumers can protect from overcharges, billing errors, and fraud in their health payments that result in undue and unnecessary financial harm. Actual prices and receipts of payment (a.k.a. health claims) are needed to audit and rectify health bills, spot wide price variations for the same care, and choose care at appropriate prices.

Real prices are needed by employers and unions to make rational health plan decisions that make the best use of workers' wage contributions and business earnings. Full price transparency will lead to a functional, competitive, and accountable healthcare marketplace that puts downward and convergent pressure on prices just as in every other economic sector. Price transparency is necessary to restore trust in the U.S. healthcare system.

METHODOLOGY

Machine-readable files (MRFs) were downloaded from hospitals' websites. If the MRFs were JSON, TXT, or XML, they were converted to XLSX or CSV for standard comparison purposes. The minimum to maximum prices were calculated for CPT codes 29877, 66984, 73721 and DRG codes 343, and 788 and the average ranges were tallied.

Disclaimer: PRA evaluated the data presented in hospital pricing files. However, PRA is not responsible for the accuracy or legitimacy of hospitals' own price files. Only hospitals can attest to the accuracy of their prices. Current hospital prices are not standardized by all billing codes and may not be complete. It is unknown whether hospitals add additional fees such as professional or facility fees or other coding modifiers to their prices. PRA stayed consistent in CPT and DRG code comparisons where applicable.

The links to the hospital MRFs are available in the appendix.

BACKGROUND

January 2024 marks the three-year anniversary of the federal Hospital Price Transparency Rule taking effect. The Obama, Trump, and Biden Administrations have been consistent in their promotion of healthcare price transparency. In 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) finalized the Hospital Price Transparency Rule mandating that hospitals disclose their standard charges.

Using authority from the Public Health Service Act, §2718(e), which was passed under the Obama Administration, this rule requires hospitals to post all prices online, easily accessible and searchable, in the form of (1) a single machine-readable standard charges file pricing for all items, services, and drugs by all payers and all plans, the de-identified minimum and maximum negotiated rates, and all discounted cash prices, as well as (2) prices for the 300 most common shoppable services either as a consumer-friendly standard charges display listing actual prices or, alternatively, as a price estimator tool.

Combined with requirements for disclosure of systemwide prices and historical claims in the Transparency in Coverage Rule (TIC) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (CAA), respectively, the Hospital Price Transparency Rule is intended to empower healthcare consumers – patients, employers, and unions as purchasers – with ease of access to compare prices.

In order to ensure hospital adherence, the rule requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to monitor and assess compliance, and authorizes CMS to issue a civil monetary penalty if hospitals fail to come into compliance. In 2021, the Biden Administration committed to improving competition in healthcare and increased the maximum penalty for noncompliance to \$2 million per hospital.

Even with the potential financial consequences, noncompliance is still prevalent among hospitals, according to multiple reviews. As of July 2023, PRA's Semi-Annual Hospital Price Transparency Rule Compliance Report shows 36% of hospitals reviewed were found to be fully compliant with the rule. Despite this widespread noncompliance, HHS has only issued civil monetary penalties to 14 noncompliant hospitals since the rule came into effect, despite CMS's own surface-level finding that 1,800 hospitals remain noncompliant.

Without clear data standards for hospital prices and robust enforcement, hospital pricing data is still difficult for consumers to access and for technology companies to parse and make meaningful. Many hospitals have chosen to post vast swaths of indecipherable formulas, N/A's, zeroes, or blank fields in lieu of real prices that can be analyzed and compared. Some hospitals have even made it difficult to access their published data by changing the code of their websites to hide pricing files from search

results and displaying pricing information as a running string of text to decrease legibility.

Moreover, price estimator tools in lieu of actual prices do not protect consumers from final bills that are far higher, make it impossible to perform total price comparisons, prevent consumers from spotting wide price variations, and fail to hold hospitals accountable for overcharging.

Price transparency has the potential to inform patient decision-making, reduce the vast price variation, and dramatically lower costs, ushering in an affordable, pro-consumer healthcare system. With robust enforcement, increased standards, and the elimination of the price estimator tool loophole, the price transparency rule can protect patients and employers from rampant overcharging, empower them with financial certainty before care, and equip them with the information needed to navigate wide price variations and make rational health plan and healthcare decisions.

FINDINGS

Price Variations of Common Medical Services Within Hospitals

Appendectomy (MS-DRG 343)

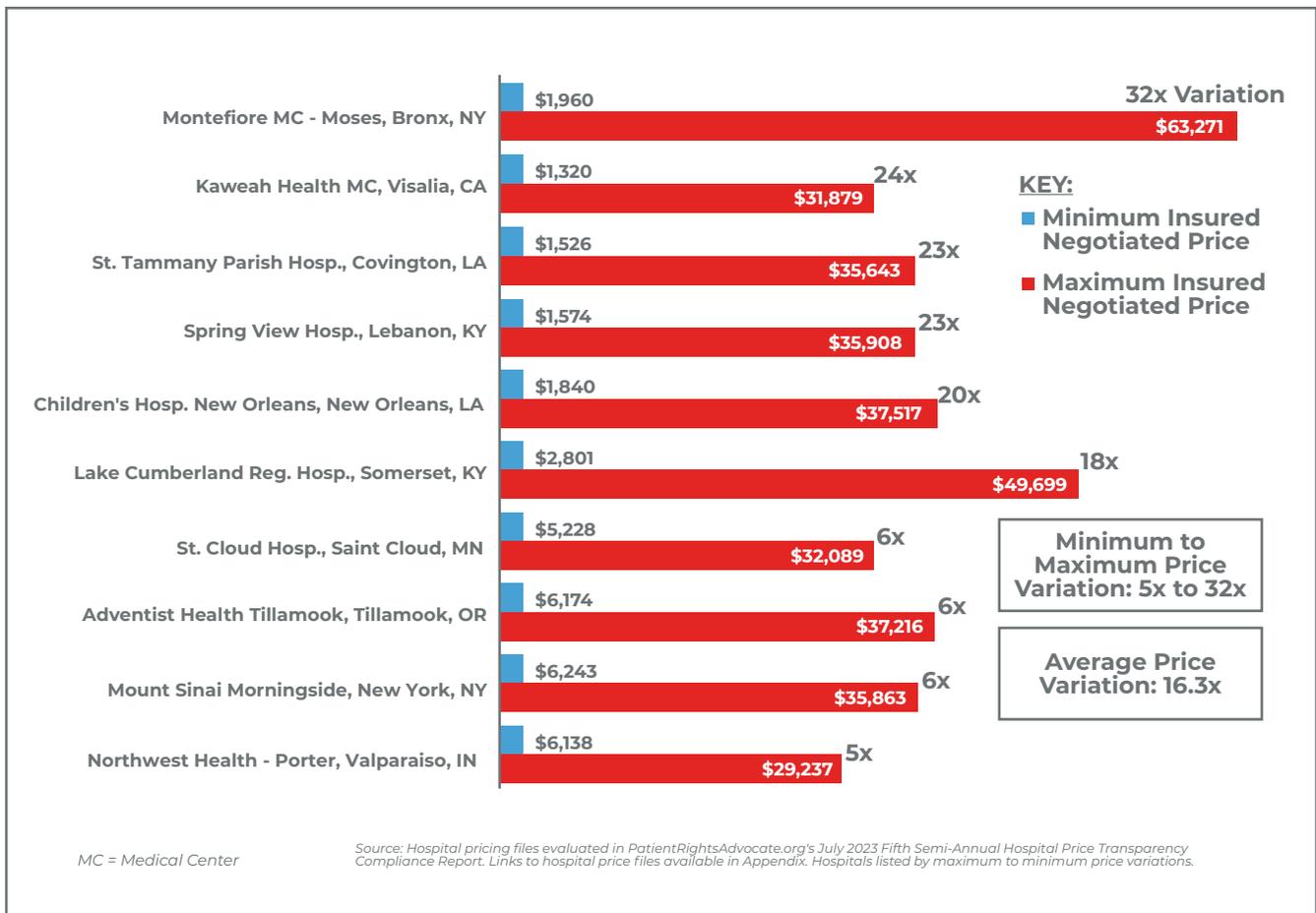


Figure 2. Price variation chart for an Appendectomy (MS-DRG 343) within the same hospitals.

Arthroscopic Knee Surgery (CPT 29877)

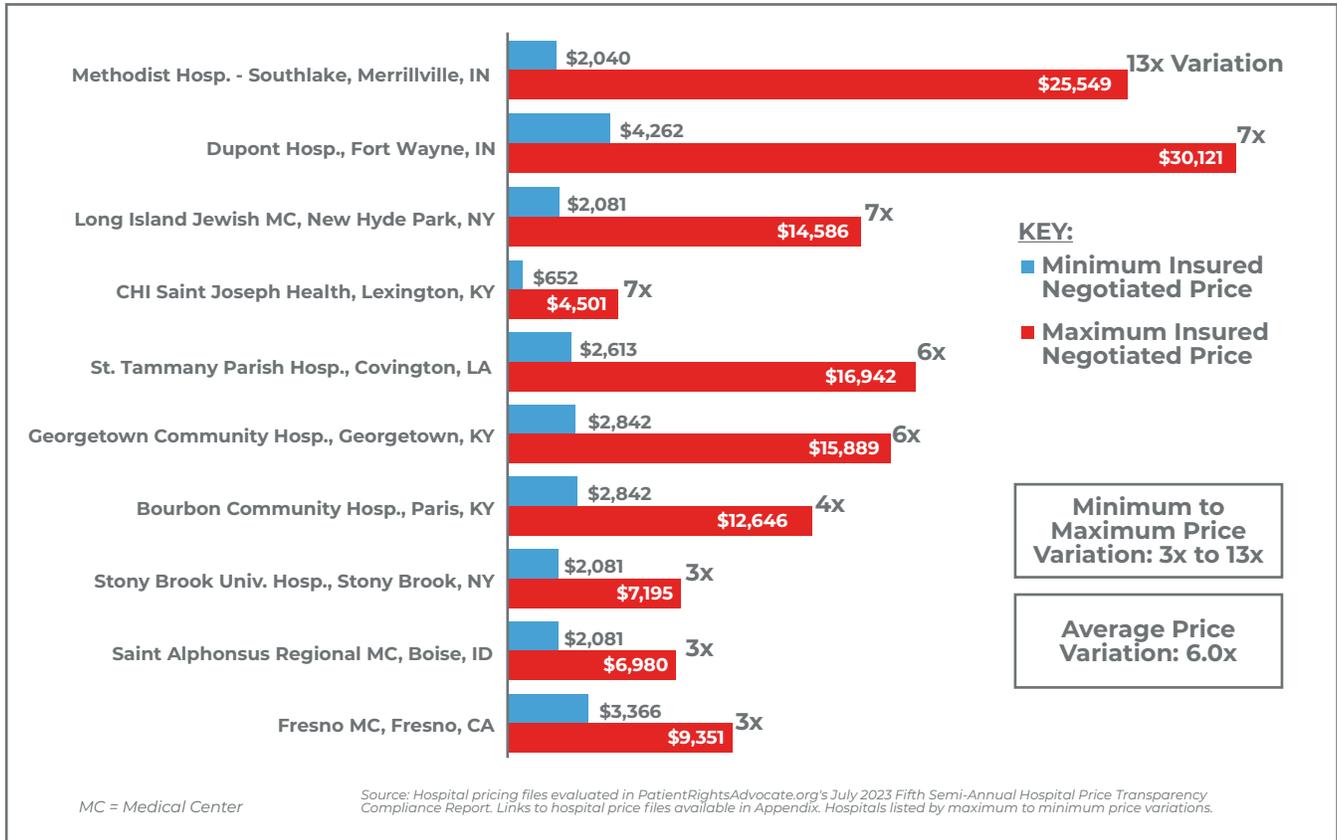


Figure 3. Price variation chart for an Arthroscopic Knee Surgery (CPT 29877) within the same hospitals.

Caesarian Section (MS-DRG 788)

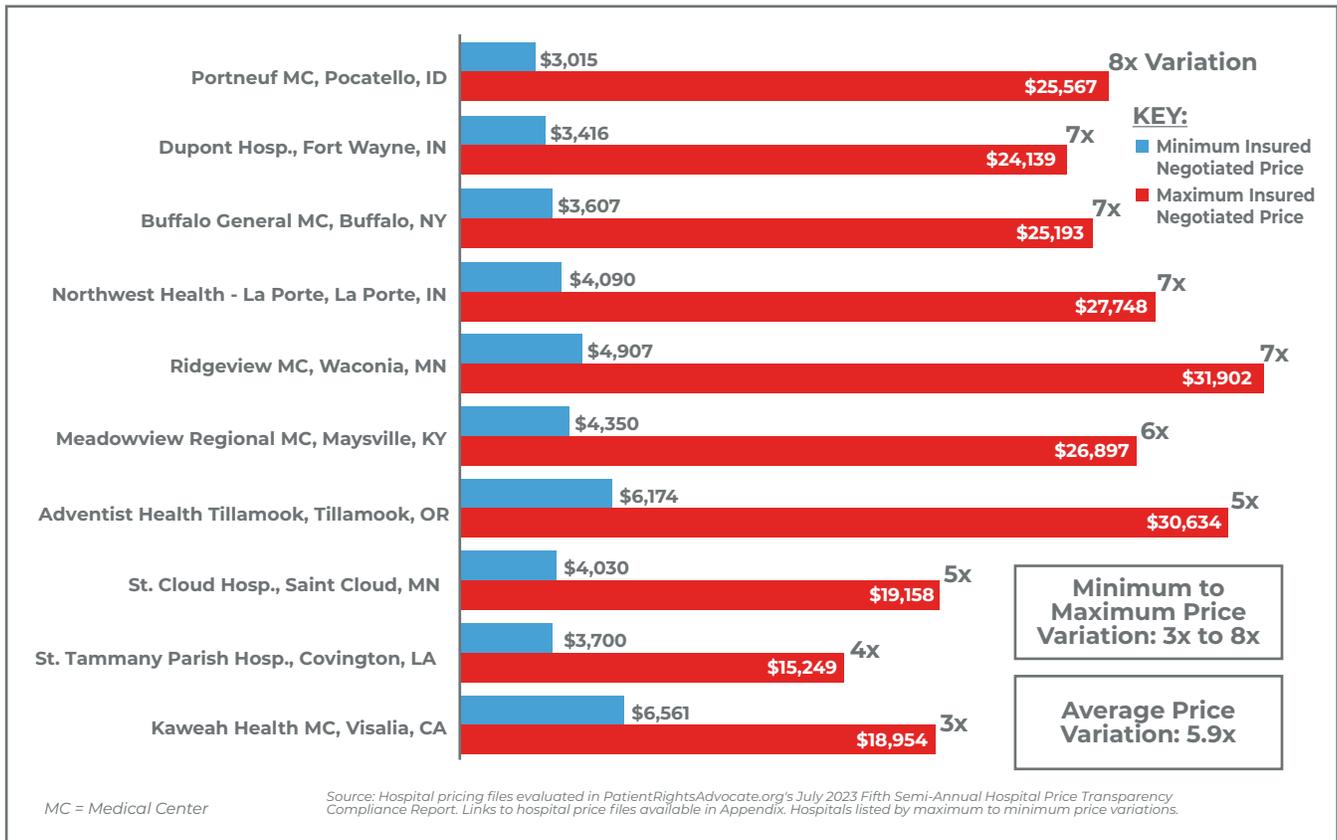


Figure 4. Price variation chart for a Caesarian Section (MS-DRG 788) within the same hospitals.

Cataract Surgery (CPT 66984)

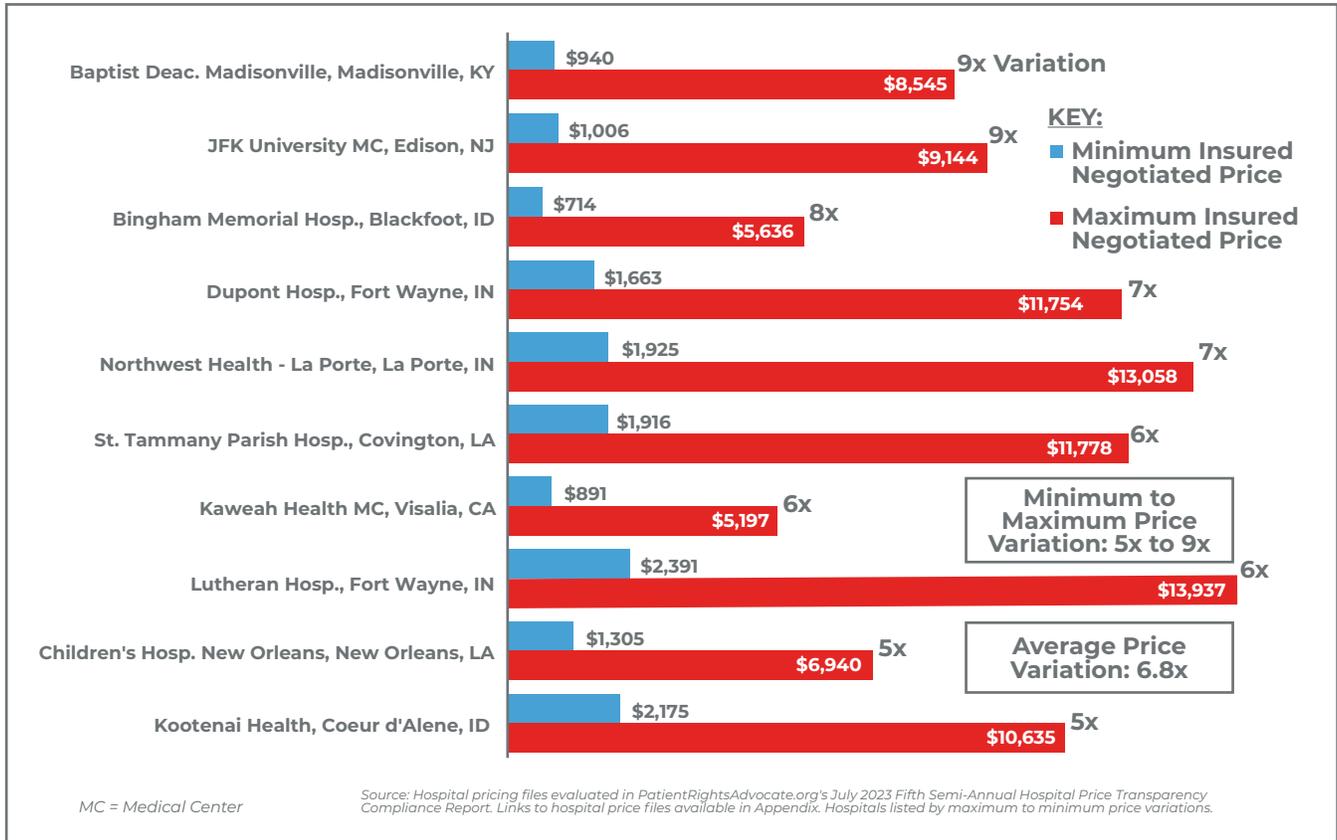


Figure 5. Price variation chart for a Cataract Surgery (CPT 66984) within the same hospitals.

MRI of Lower Extremity Without Contrast (CPT 73721)

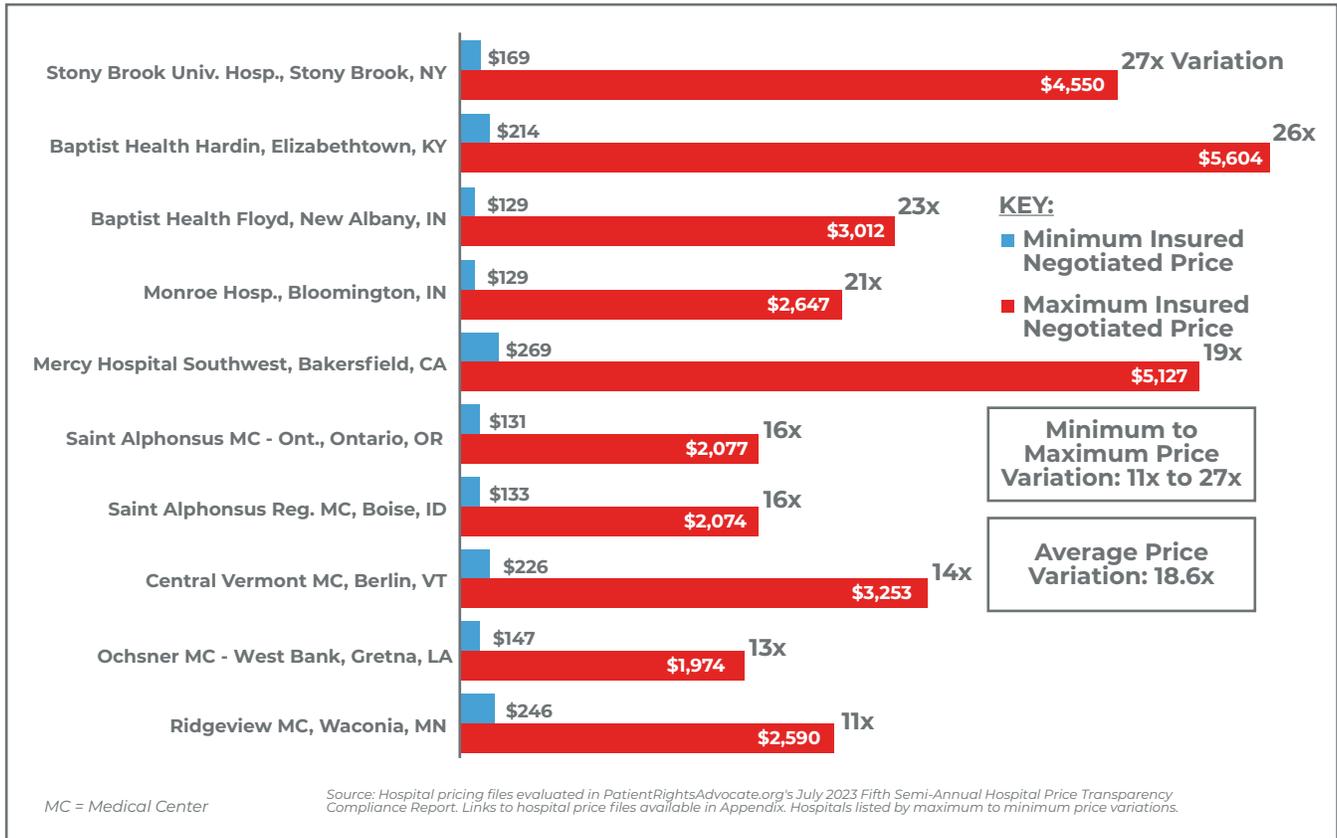


Figure 6. Price variation chart for an MRI of Lower Extremity without Contrast (CPT 73721) within the same hospitals.

Price Variations of Common Medical Services Across Hospitals in the Same States

Appendectomy (MS-DRG 343)

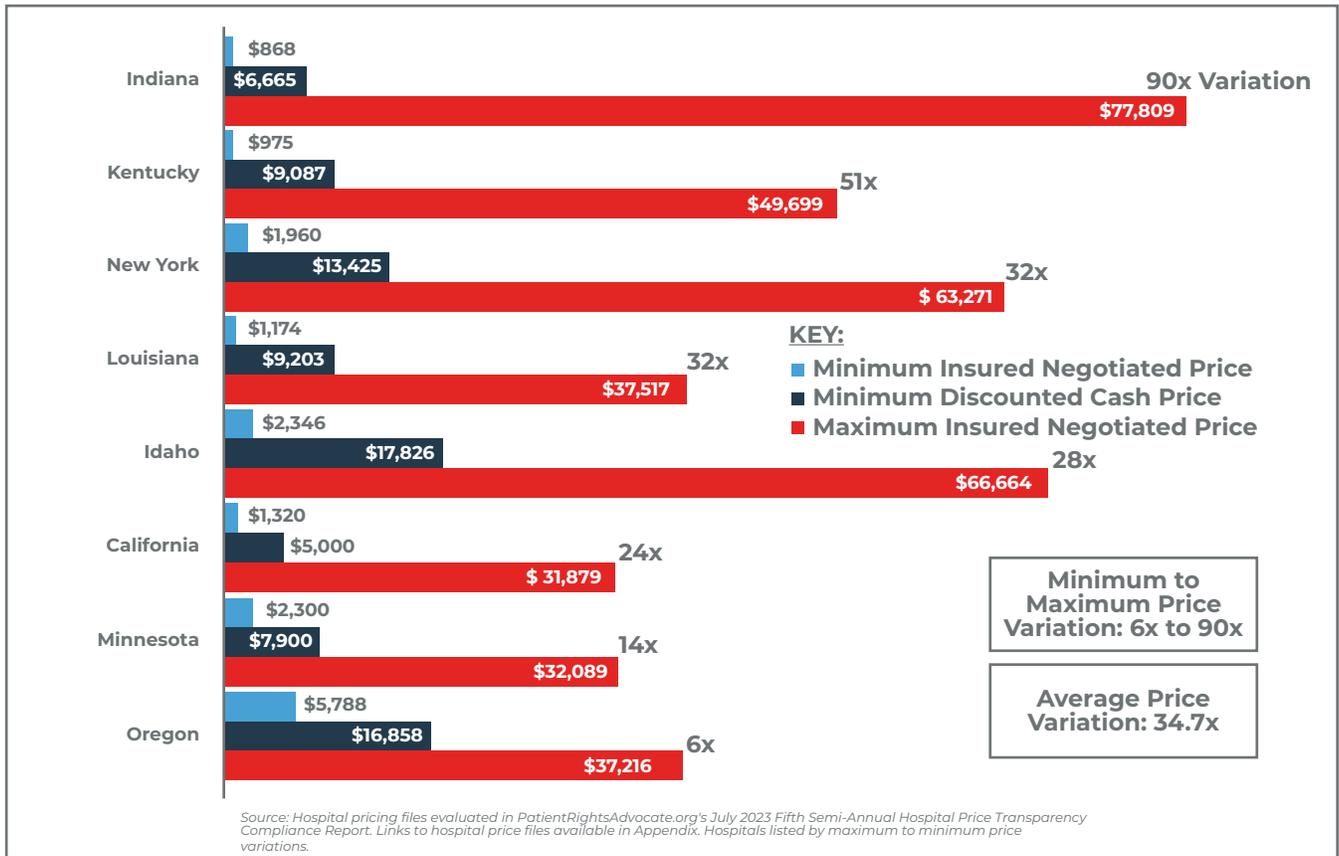


Figure 7. Price Variation for an Appendectomy (MS-DRG 343) across hospitals in the same states.

Arthroscopic Knee Surgery (CPT 29877)

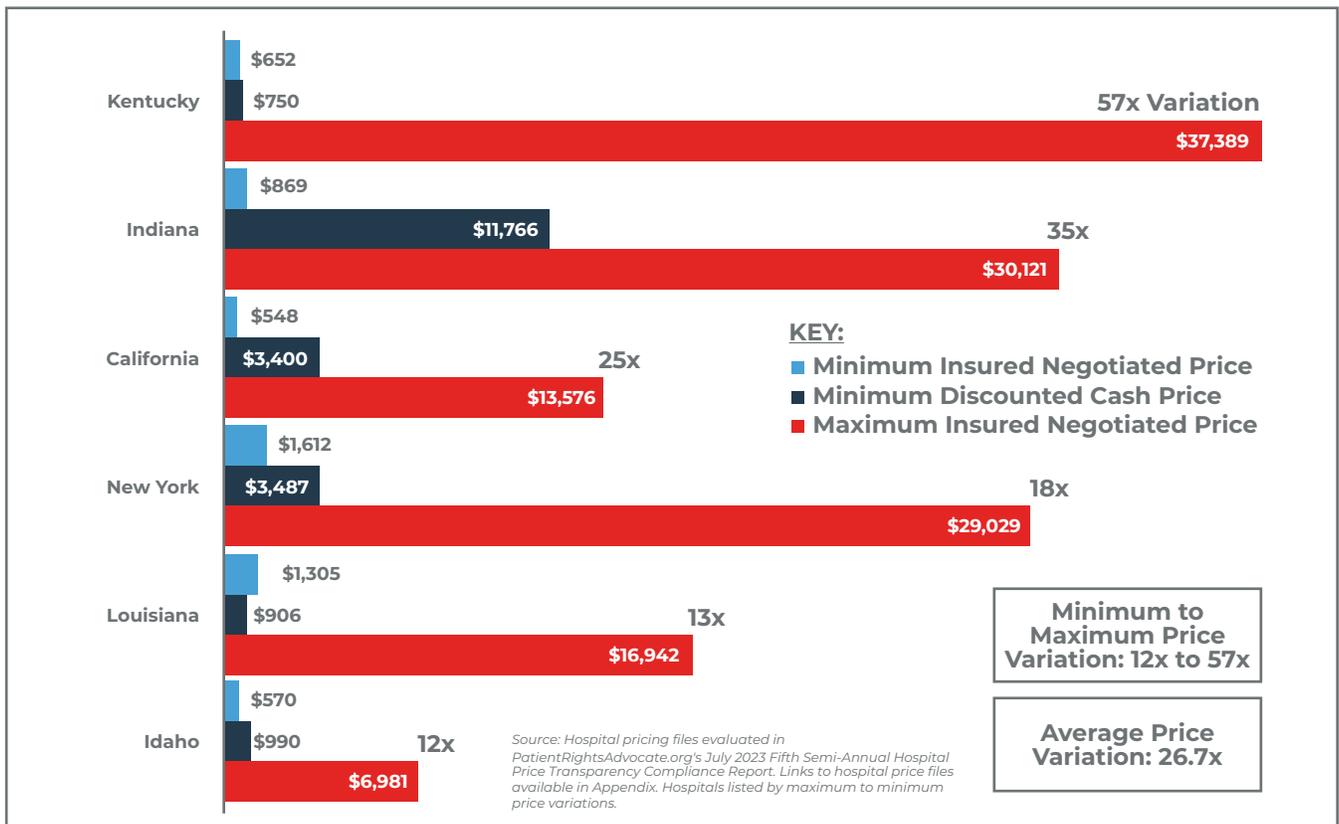


Figure 8. Price variation chart for an Arthroscopic Knee Surgery (CPT 29877) across hospitals in the same states.

Caesarian Section (MS-DRG 788)

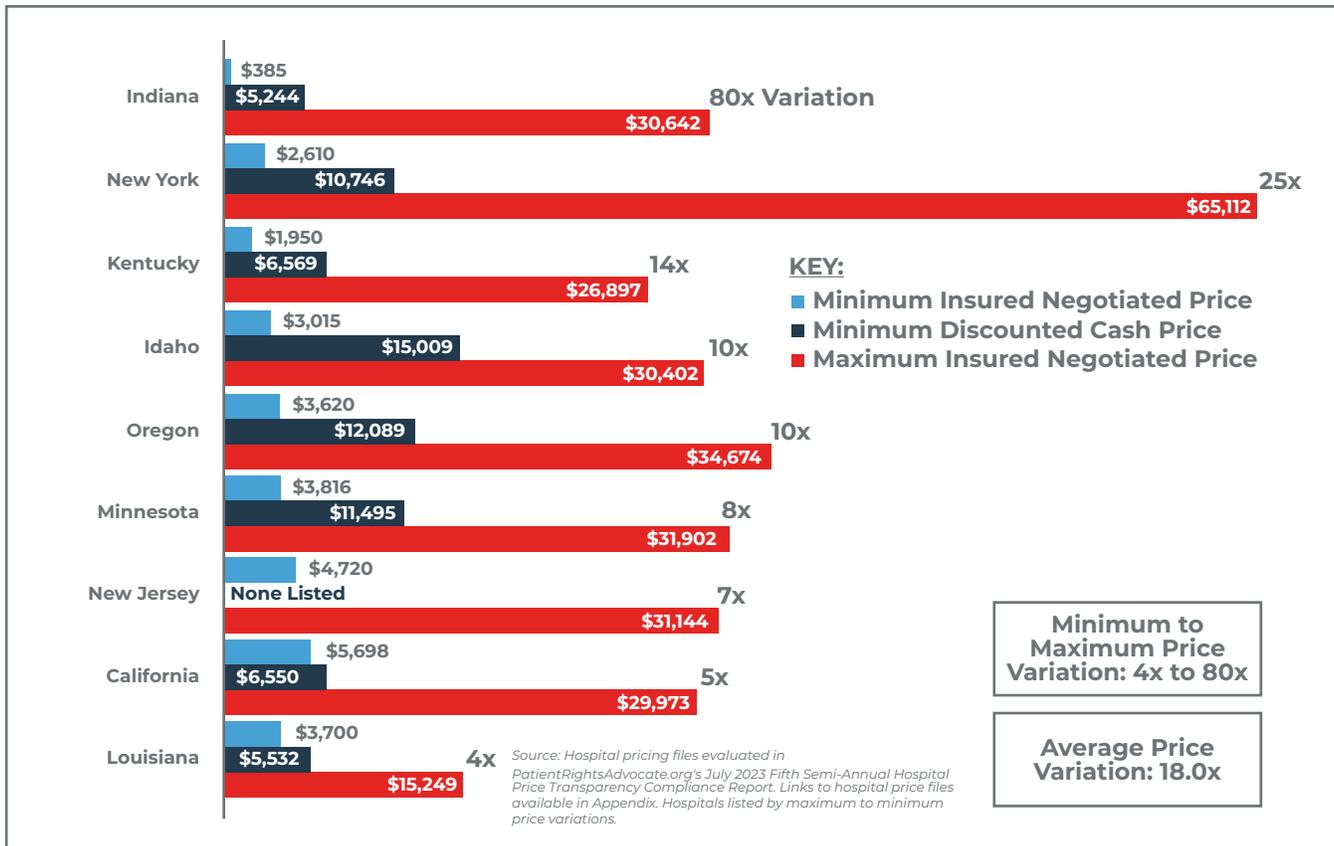


Figure 9. Price variation chart for a Caesarian Section (MS-DRG 788) across hospitals in the same states.

Cataract Surgery (CPT 66984)

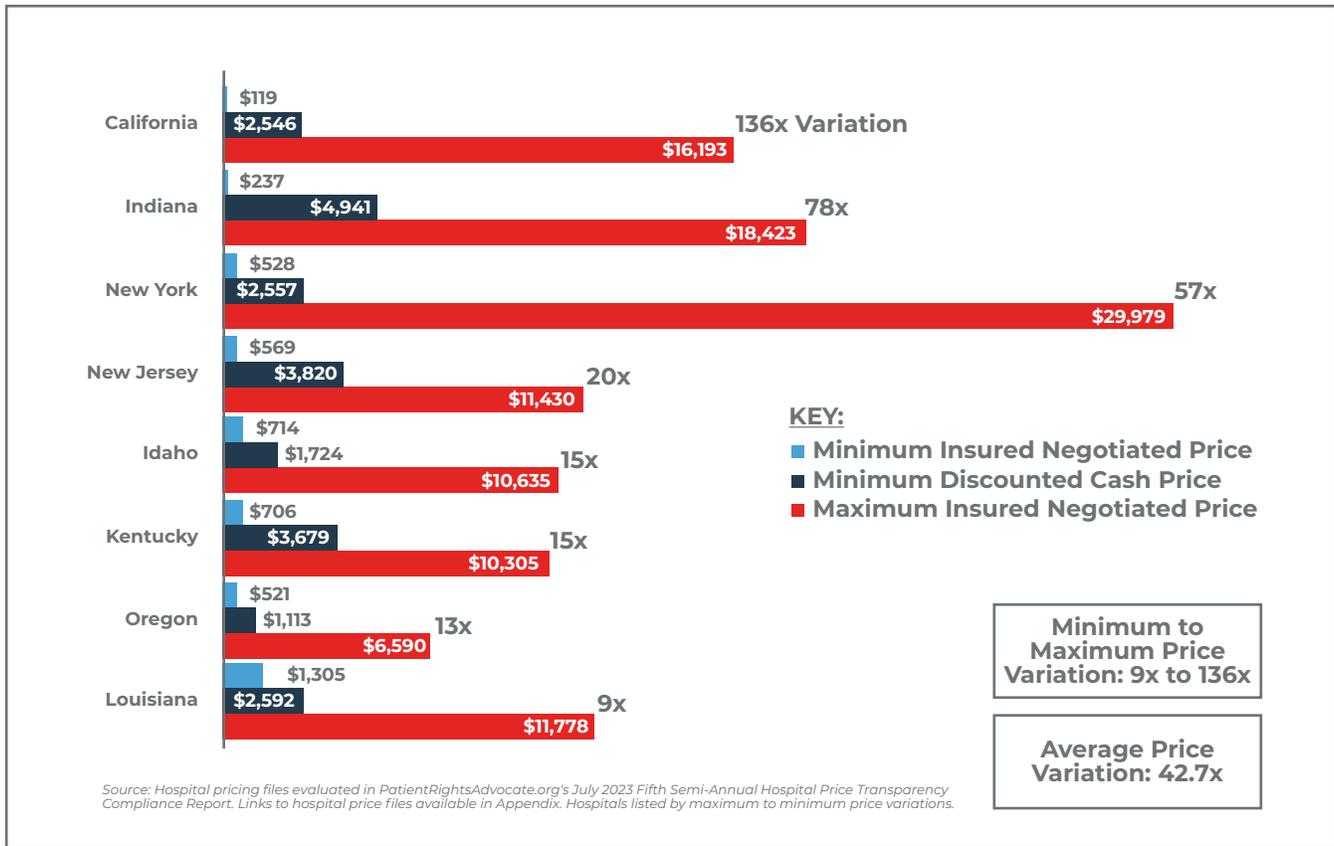


Figure 10. Price Variation chart for a Cataract Surgery (CPT 66984) across hospitals in the same states.

MRI of Lower Extremity Without Contrast (CPT 73721)

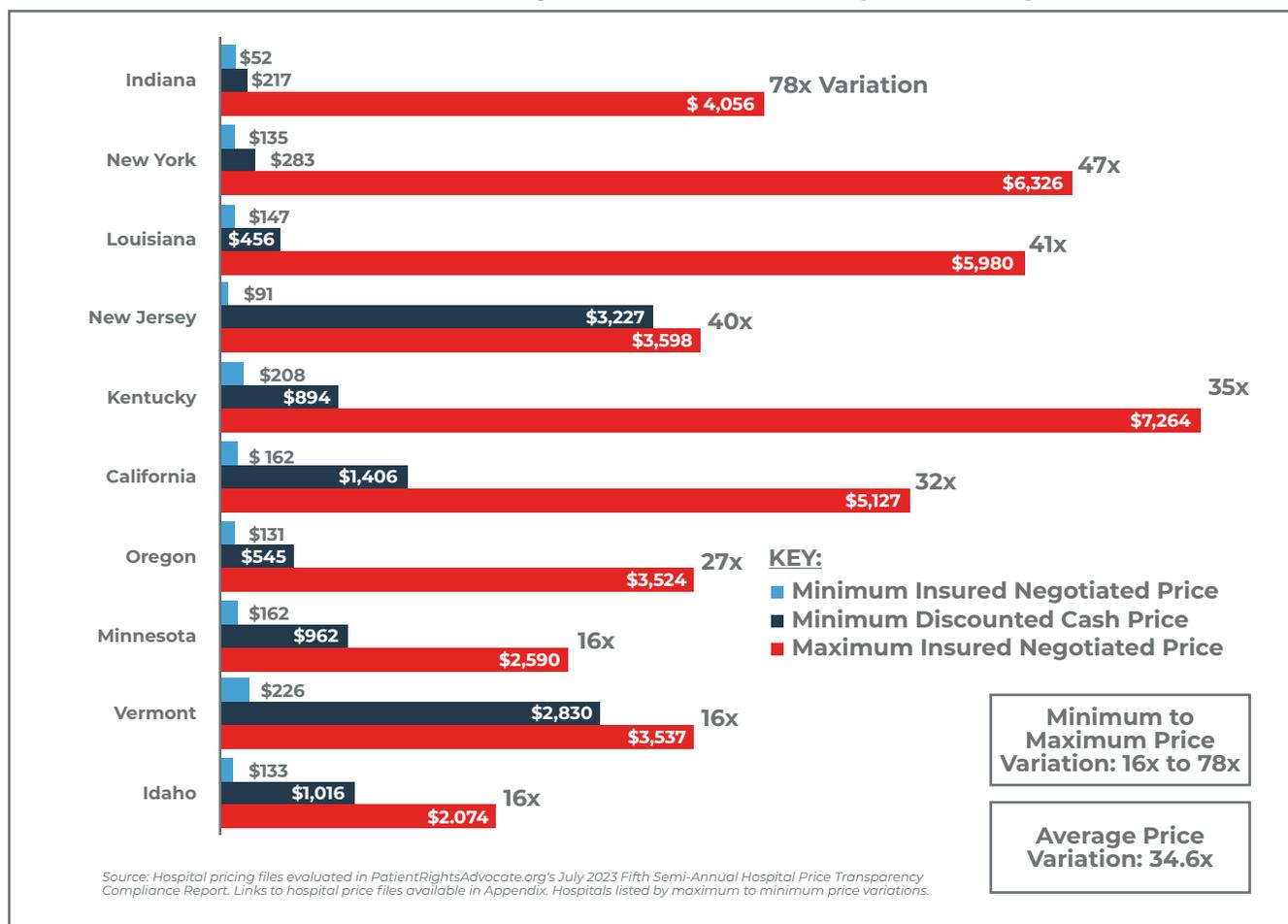


Figure 11. Price variation chart for an MRI of Lower Extremity without Contrast (CPT 73721) across hospitals in the same states.

DISCUSSION

Hospital prices continue to vary widely, causing undue and unnecessary harm to Americans, despite numerous legislative and social efforts to generate price transparency. Hospital price files show that within the same hospitals, prices vary by an average range of 10.7 times for the same procedures. Across hospitals in the same states, prices vary by an average range of 31.3 times for the same procedures. PRA found variations as high as 32 times for an Appendectomy within the same hospital. Across hospitals in the same states, PRA found variations as high as 136 times for Cataract Surgery in California. Discounted cash prices can be found in states that are significantly lower than insured negotiated prices, suggesting many consumers are better served by paying cash.

This pricing data shows that (1) although there are readily available low-cost substitutes, customers who do not find them face prices that are both high and unpredictable; (2) the level of variation observed is not consistent with competitive markets but with firms driving a wedge between actual cost and marked-up fees; (3) in markets with readily available substitutes, one would expect to see the “law of one price.” It begs the question: How are hospitals able to set and maintain these negotiated prices? Are they generating a reasonable profit or collecting unreasonable rents – incomes in excess of opportunity cost? Is this because of a lack of transparent substitutes at lower costs?

The wild and inequitable price fluctuations for the same care in the same hospitals or states, as revealed in this study, demonstrate the urgent need for systemwide price transparency so consumers can protect themselves from discriminatory pricing, overcharges, billing errors, and fraud. Actual prices empower employers and unions to design affordable health plans that allow comparison and reconciliation of claims receipts to actual prices. Real prices allow plans to disintermediate with countless third parties that pursue revenue-cycle optimization and direct contract with hospitals at less expensive rates.

Armed with actual prices, consumers can hold hospitals accountable for profiteering, stop overpaying, and spot equitable care. Systemwide price transparency will empower consumers to choose the best care at the best prices and put downward and convergent pressure on prices.

The Hospital Price Transparency Rule enables some visibility into price variation in the U.S. healthcare system, but widespread noncompliance has hindered Americans' ability to realize the savings from systemwide price transparency. According to PRA's July 2023 Semi-Annual Hospital Price Transparency Compliance Report, only 36% of hospitals examined are fully complying with the rule.

Threats of financial consequences have done little to curb noncompliance rates, especially for bigger hospitals that likely do not view CMS fines as substantial enough to warrant action. These fines are rarely actually assessed, with only 14 hospitals fined to date. Even in cases of reluctant compliance, pricing data remains inconsistent and difficult to interpret and compare.

As a result, American healthcare consumers remain uninformed and ill-informed about prices. Systemwide price transparency can overcome the information asymmetry that prevents consumers from effectively comparing prices and reducing outrageous costs. Consumers need actual, upfront prices at the point of care to enjoy full financial certainty, seek the care they need when they need it, and restore trust in the U.S. healthcare system. Full price transparency will usher in competitive healthcare markets, reducing price variation and overall prices while rewarding fair-priced hospitals, and it is attainable by strengthening and robustly enforcing the Hospital Price Transparency Rule and other price transparency rules and laws.

Hospital pricing files from PatientRightsAdvocate.org's July 2023 Fifth Semi-Annual Hospital Price Transparency Compliance Report were evaluated by an independent economics firm, and independently verified and validated by researchers at PatientRightsAdvocate.org. However, PRA is not responsible for the accuracy or legitimacy of hospitals' own price files. Only hospitals can attest to the accuracy of their prices. The data shows the need for the standardization of prices, including all additional fees for services rendered, to have complete prices and financial certainty in advance of care.

Appendix A – Price Tables of Variations of Common Medical Services Within Hospitals

Appendectomy (MS-DRG 343)

| Hospital | Discounted Cash Price | Minimum Negotiated Rate | Maximum Negotiated Rate | Ratio of Maximum to Minimum | Ratio of Maximum Negotiated Rate to Cash |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Montefiore MC – Moses Bronx, New York | \$37,898 | \$1,960 | \$63,271 | 32:1 | 2:1 |
| Kaweah Health MC Visalia, California | \$5,000 | \$1,320 | \$31,879 | 24:1 | 6:1 |
| St. Tammany Parish Hospital Covington, Louisiana | \$14,257 | \$1,526 | \$35,643 | 23:1 | 3:1 |
| Spring View Hospital Lebanon, Kentucky | \$14,363 | \$1,574 | \$35,908 | 23:1 | 3:1 |
| Children's Hospital New Orleans New Orleans, Louisiana | \$11,476 | \$1,840 | \$37,517 | 20:1 | 3:1 |
| Lake Cumberland Reg. Hospital Somerset, Kentucky | \$22,088 | \$2,801 | \$49,699 | 18:1 | 2:1 |
| St. Cloud Hospital Saint Cloud, Minnesota | \$19,253 | \$5,228 | \$32,089 | 6:1 | 2:1 |
| Adventist Health Tillamook Tillamook, Oregon | \$21,266 | \$6,174 | \$37,216 | 6:1 | 2:1 |
| Mount Sinai Morningside New York, New York | \$13,425 | \$6,243 | \$35,863 | 6:1 | 3:1 |
| Northwest Health – Porter Valparaiso, Indiana | \$23,759 | \$6,138 | \$29,237 | 5:1 | 1:1 |

Table 1. Price variation table for an Appendectomy (MS-DRG 343) within the same hospitals.

Arthroscopic Knee Surgery (CPT 29877)

| Hospital | Discounted Cash Price | Minimum Negotiated Rate | Maximum Negotiated Rate | Ratio of Maximum to Minimum | Ratio of Maximum Negotiated Rate to Cash |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Methodist Hospitals – Southlake Merrillville, Indiana | \$20,796 | \$2,040 | \$25,549 | 13:1 | 1:1 |
| Dupont Hospital Fort Wayne, Indiana | \$15,344 | \$4,262 | \$30,121 | 7:1 | 2:1 |
| Long Island Jewish MC New Hyde Park, New York | \$4,133 | \$2,081 | \$14,586 | 7:1 | 4:1 |
| CHI Saint Joseph Health Hospital Lexington, Kentucky | \$750 | \$652 | \$4,501 | 7:1 | 6:1 |
| St. Tammany Parish Hospital Covington, Louisiana | \$10,165 | \$2,613 | \$16,942 | 6:1 | 2:1 |
| Georgetown Community Hospital Georgetown, Kentucky | \$7,061 | \$2,842 | \$15,889 | 6:1 | 2:1 |
| Bourbon Community Hospital Paris, Kentucky | \$5,498 | \$2,842 | \$12,646 | 4:1 | 2:1 |
| Stony Brook University Hospital Stony Brook, New York | \$6,707 | \$2,081 | \$7,195 | 3:1 | 1:1 |
| Saint Alphonsus Regional MC Boise, Idaho | \$6,770 | \$2,081 | \$6,980 | 3:1 | 1:1 |
| Fresno MC Fresno, California | \$4,979 | \$3,366 | \$9,351 | 3:1 | 2:1 |

Table 2. Price Variation table for an Arthroscopic Knee Surgery (CPT 29877) within the same hospitals.

Caesarean Section (MS-DRG 788)

| Hospital | Discounted Cash Price | Minimum Negotiated Rate | Maximum Negotiated Rate | Ratio of Max to Min | Ratio of Maximum Negotiated Rate to Cash |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Portneuf MC Pocatello, Idaho | \$16,786 | \$3,015 | \$25,567 | 8:1 | 2:1 |
| Dupont Hospital Fort Wayne, Indiana | \$20,495 | \$3,416 | \$24,139 | 7:1 | 1:1 |
| Buffalo General MC Buffalo, New York | \$19,998 | \$3,607 | \$25,193 | 7:1 | 1:1 |
| Ridgeview MC Waconia, Minnesota | \$16,270 | \$4,907 | \$31,902 | 7:1 | 2:1 |
| Northwest Health – La Porte La Porte, Indiana | \$23,746 | \$4,090 | \$27,748 | 7:1 | 1:1 |
| Meadowview Regional MC Maysville, Kentucky | \$11,954 | \$4,350 | \$26,897 | 6:1 | 2:1 |
| Adventist Health Tillamook Tillamook, Oregon | \$17,505 | \$6,174 | \$30,634 | 5:1 | 2:1 |
| St. Cloud Hospital Saint Cloud, Minnesota | \$11,495 | \$4,030 | \$19,158 | 5:1 | 2:1 |
| St. Tammany Parish Hospital Covington, Louisiana | \$6,100 | \$3,700 | \$15,249 | 4:1 | 2:1 |
| Kaweah Health MC Visalia, California | \$6,550 | \$6,561 | \$18,954 | 3:1 | 3:1 |

Table 3. Price variation table for a Caesarean Section (MS-DRG 788) with the same hospitals.

Cataract Surgery (CPT 66984)

| Hospital | Discounted Cash Price | Minimum Negotiated Rate | Maximum Negotiated Rate | Ratio of Maximum to Minimum | Ratio of Maximum Negotiated Rate to Cash |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Baptist Deac. Madisonville, Madisonville, Kentucky | \$6,408 | \$940 | \$8,545 | 9:1 | 1:1 |
| JFK University MC Edison, New Jersey | \$6,080 | \$1,006 | \$9,144 | 9:1 | 2:1 |
| Bingham Memorial Hospital Blackfoot, Idaho | \$1,724 | \$714 | \$5,636 | 8:1 | 3:1 |
| Dupont Hospital Fort Wayne, Indiana | \$5,988 | \$1,663 | \$11,754 | 7:1 | 2:1 |
| Northwest Health – La Porte La Porte, Indiana | \$6,829 | \$1,925 | \$13,058 | 7:1 | 2:1 |
| St. Tammany Parish Hospital Covington, Louisiana | \$7,067 | \$1,916 | \$11,778 | 6:1 | 2:1 |
| Kaweah Health MC Visalia, California | \$2,546 | \$891 | \$5,197 | 6:1 | 2:1 |
| Lutheran Hospital Fort Wayne, Indiana | \$7,246 | \$2,391 | \$13,937 | 6:1 | 2:1 |
| Children's Hospital New Orleans New Orleans, Louisiana | \$2,592 | \$1,305 | \$6,940 | 5:1 | 3:1 |
| Kootenai Health Coeur d'Alene, Idaho | \$8,863 | \$2,175 | \$10,635 | 5:1 | 1:1 |

Table 4. Price variation table for a Cataract Surgery (CPT 66984) within the same hospitals.

MRI of Lower Extremity Without Contrast (CPT 73721)

| Hospital | Discounted Cash Price | Minimum Negotiated Rate | Maximum Negotiated Rate | Ratio of Maximum to Minimum | Ratio of Maximum Negotiated Rate to Cash |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Stony Brook University Hospital Stony Brook, New York | \$4,700 | \$169 | \$4,550 | 27:1 | 1:1 |
| Baptist Health Hardin Elizabethtown, Kentucky | \$5,253 | \$214 | \$5,604 | 26:1 | 1:1 |
| Baptist Health Floyd New Albany, Indiana | \$2,824 | \$129 | \$3,012 | 23:1 | 1:1 |
| Monroe Hospital Bloomington, Indiana | \$217 | \$129 | \$2,647 | 21:1 | 12:1 |
| Mercy Hospital Southwest Bakersfield, California | \$2,535 | \$269 | \$5,127 | 19:1 | 2:1 |
| Saint Alphonsus MC - Ont. Ontario, Oregon | \$1,488 | \$131 | \$2,077 | 16:1 | 1:1 |
| Saint Alphonsus Regional MC Boise, Idaho | \$1,477 | \$133 | \$2,074 | 16:1 | 1:1 |
| Central Vermont MC Berlin, Vermont | \$3,243 | \$226 | \$3,253 | 14:1 | 1:1 |
| Ochsner MC - West Bank Gretna, Louisiana | \$459 | \$147 | \$1,974 | 13:1 | 4:1 |
| Ridgeview MC Waconia, Minnesota | \$1,321 | \$246 | \$2,590 | 11:1 | 2:1 |

Table 5. Price variation chart for a MRI of Lower Extremity without Contrast (CPT 73721) within the same hospitals.

Appendix B – Price Tables of Variations of Common Medical Services Across Hospitals in the Same States

Appendectomy (MS-DRG 343)

| State | Minimum Cash Price | Minimum Negotiated Rate | Maximum Negotiated Rate | Ratio of Maximum to Minimum | Ratio of Maximum Negotiated Rate to Minimum to Cash Price |
|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Indiana | \$6,665 | \$868 | \$77,809 | 90:1 | 12:1 |
| Kentucky | \$9,087 | \$975 | \$49,699 | 51:1 | 5:1 |
| New York | \$13,425 | \$1,960 | \$63,271 | 32:1 | 5:1 |
| Louisiana | \$9,203 | \$1,174 | \$37,517 | 32:1 | 4:1 |
| Idaho | \$17,826 | \$2,346 | \$66,664 | 28:1 | 4:1 |
| California | \$5,000 | \$1,320 | \$31,879 | 24:1 | 6:1 |
| Minnesota | \$7,900 | \$2,300 | \$32,089 | 14:1 | 4:1 |
| Oregon | \$16,858 | \$5,788 | \$37,216 | 6:1 | 2:1 |

Table 6. Price variation table for an Appendectomy (MS-DRG 343) across hospitals in the same states.

Arthroscopic Knee Surgery (CPT 29877)

| State | Minimum Cash Price | Minimum Negotiated Rate | Maximum Negotiated Rate | Ratio of Maximum to Minimum | Ratio of Maximum Negotiated Rate to Minimum to Cash Price |
|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Kentucky | \$750 | \$652 | \$37,389 | 57:1 | 50:1 |
| Indiana | \$11,766 | \$869 | \$30,121 | 35:1 | 3:1 |
| California | \$3,400 | \$548 | \$13,576 | 25:1 | 4:1 |
| New York | \$3,487 | \$1,612 | \$29,029 | 18:1 | 8:1 |
| Louisiana | \$906 | \$1,305 | \$16,942 | 13:1 | 19:1 |
| Idaho | \$990 | \$570 | \$6,981 | 12:1 | 7:1 |

Table 7. Price variation table for an Arthroscopic Knee Surgery (CPT 29877) across hospitals in the same states.

Caesarean Section (MS-DRG 788)

| State | Minimum Cash Price | Minimum Negotiated Rate | Maximum Negotiated Rate | Ratio of Maximum to Minimum | Ratio of Maximum Negotiated Rate to Minimum to Cash Price |
|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Indiana | \$5,244 | \$385 | \$30,642 | 80:1 | 6:1 |
| New York | \$10,746 | \$2,610 | \$65,112 | 25:1 | 6:1 |
| Kentucky | \$6,569 | \$1,950 | \$26,897 | 14:1 | 4:1 |
| Idaho | \$15,009 | \$3,015 | \$30,402 | 10:1 | 2:1 |
| Oregon | \$12,089 | \$3,620 | \$34,674 | 10:1 | 3:1 |
| Minnesota | \$11,495 | \$3,816 | \$31,902 | 8:1 | 3:1 |
| New Jersey | None Listed | \$4,720 | \$31,144 | 7:1 | N/A |
| California | \$6,550 | \$5,698 | \$29,973 | 5:1 | 5:1 |
| Louisiana | \$5,532 | \$3,700 | \$15,249 | 4:1 | 3:1 |

Table 8. Price variation table for a Caesarean Section (MS-DRG) across hospitals in the same states.

Cataract Surgery (CPT 66984)

| State | Minimum Cash Price | Minimum Negotiated Rate | Maximum Negotiated Rate | Ratio of Maximum to Minimum | Ratio of Maximum Negotiated Rate to Minimum to Cash Price |
|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| California | \$2,546 | \$119 | \$16,193 | 136:1 | 6:1 |
| Indiana | \$4,941 | \$237 | \$18,423 | 78:1 | 4:1 |
| New York | \$2,557 | \$528 | \$29,979 | 57:1 | 12:1 |
| New Jersey | \$3,820 | \$569 | \$11,430 | 20:1 | 3:1 |
| Idaho | \$1,724 | \$714 | \$10,635 | 15:1 | 6:1 |
| Kentucky | \$3,679 | \$706 | \$10,305 | 15:1 | 3:1 |
| Oregon | \$1,113 | \$521 | \$6,590 | 13:1 | 6:1 |
| Louisiana | \$2,592 | \$1,305 | \$11,778 | 9:1 | 5:1 |

Table 9. Price variation table for a Cataract Surgery (CPT 66984) across hospitals in the same states.

MRI of Lower Extremity Without Contrast (CPT 73721)

| State | Minimum Cash Price | Minimum Negotiated Rate | Maximum Negotiated Rate | Ratio of Maximum to Minimum | Ratio of Maximum Negotiated Rate to Cash |
|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Indiana | \$217 | \$52 | \$4,056 | 78:1 | 19:1 |
| New York | \$283 | \$135 | \$6,326 | 47:1 | 22:1 |
| Louisiana | \$456 | \$147 | \$5,980 | 41:1 | 13:1 |
| New Jersey | \$3,227 | \$91 | \$3,598 | 40:1 | 1:1 |
| Kentucky | \$894 | \$208 | \$7,264 | 35:1 | 8:1 |
| California | \$1,406 | \$162 | \$5,127 | 32:1 | 4:1 |
| Oregon | \$545 | \$131 | \$3,524 | 27:1 | 6:1 |
| Minnesota | \$962 | \$162 | \$2,590 | 16:1 | 3:1 |
| Vermont | \$2,830 | \$226 | \$3,537 | 16:1 | 1:1 |
| Idaho | \$1,016 | \$133 | \$2,074 | 16:1 | 2:1 |

Table 10. Price variation table for an MRI of Lower Extremity with Contrast (CPT 73721) across hospitals in the same states.

Appendix C- Links to Hospital Price Data Source Files

California

1. [Bakersfield Memorial Hospital, Bakersfield, California. CMS Certification Number: 050036](#)
2. [Mercy Hospital Downtown Bakersfield, Bakersfield, California. CMS Certification Number: 050295](#)
3. [Mercy Hospital Southwest, Bakersfield, California. CMS Certification Number: 050295](#)
4. [Community Regional Medical Center, Fresno, California. CMS Certification Number: 050060](#)
5. [Fresno Medical Center, Fresno, California. CMS Certification Number: 050710](#)
6. [Saint Agnes Medical Center, Fresno, California. CMS Certification Number: 050093](#)
7. [Kaweah Health Medical Center, Visalia, California. CMS Certification Number: 050057](#)

Idaho

8. [Bingham Memorial Hospital, Blackfoot, Idaho. CMS Certification Number: 131325](#)
9. [Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise, Idaho. CMS Certification Number: 130007](#)
10. [St. Luke's Boise Medical Center, Boise, Idaho. CMS Certification Number: 130006](#)
11. [West Valley Medical Center, Caldwell, Idaho. CMS Certification Number: 130014](#)
12. [Kootenai Health , Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. CMS Certification Number: 130049](#)
13. [Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, Idaho Falls, Idaho. CMS Certification Number: 130018](#)
14. [Portneuf Medical Center, Pocatello, Idaho. CMS Certification Number: 130028](#)

Indiana

15. [Ascension St. Vincent Anderson, Anderson, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150088](#)
16. [Monroe Hospital, Bloomington, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150183](#)
17. [Bluffton Regional Medical Center, Bluffton, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150075](#)
18. [Ascension St. Vincent Warrick, Boonville, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 151325](#)
19. [Ascension St. Vincent Carmel, Carmel, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150157](#)
20. [Franciscan Health Crown Point, Crown Point, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150126](#)
21. [Elkhart General Hospital, Elkhart, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150018](#)
22. [Dupont Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150150](#)
23. [Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150017](#)
24. [Methodist Hospitals - Northlake Campus, Gary, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150002](#)
25. [Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Hospital, Indianapolis, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150024](#)
26. [Clark Memorial Hospital, Jeffersonville, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150009](#)
27. [Northwest Health - La Porte, La Porte, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150006](#)
28. [Methodist Hospitals - Southlake Campus, Merrillville, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150132](#)
29. [Mishawaka Medical Center, Mishawaka, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150012](#)
30. [Baptist Health Floyd, New Albany, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150044](#)

31. [Plymouth Medical Center, Plymouth, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150076](#)
32. [Ascension St. Vincent Salem, Salem, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 151314](#)
33. [Northwest Health - Porter, Valparaiso, Indiana. CMS Certification Number: 150035](#)

Kentucky

34. [Taylor Regional Hospital, Campbellsville, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180087](#)
35. [Baptist Health Corbin, Corbin, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180080](#)
36. [Baptist Health Hardin, Elizabethtown, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180012](#)
37. [Georgetown Community Hospital, Georgetown, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180101](#)
38. [Spring View Hospital, Lebanon, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180024](#)
39. [CHI Saint Joseph East, Lexington, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180143](#)
40. [CHI Saint Joseph Health Hospital, Lexington, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180010](#)
41. [Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville, Madisonville, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180093](#)
42. [Meadowview Regional Medical Center, Maysville, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180019](#)
43. [Bourbon Community Hospital, Paris, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180046](#)
44. [Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital, Somerset, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180132](#)
45. [Bluegrass Community Hospital, Versailles, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 181308](#)
46. [Clark Regional Medical Center, Winchester, Kentucky. CMS Certification Number: 180092](#)

Louisiana

47. [St. Tammany Parish Hospital, Covington, Louisiana. CMS Certification Number: 190045](#)
48. [Ochsner Medical Center - West Bank, Gretna, Louisiana. CMS Certification Number: 190275](#)
49. [North Oaks Medical Center, Hammond, Louisiana. CMS Certification Number: 190015](#)
50. [Terrebonne General Health System, Houma, Louisiana. CMS Certification Number: 190008](#)
51. [Children's Hospital New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana. CMS Certification Number: 193300](#)
52. [Ochsner Medical Center, New Orleans, Louisiana. CMS Certification Number: 190036](#)
53. [University Medical Center New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana. CMS Certification Number: 190005](#)
54. [Slidell Memorial Hospital, Slidell, Louisiana. CMS Certification Number: 190040](#)

Minnesota

55. [Mercy Hospital, Coon Rapids, Minnesota. CMS Certification Number: 240115](#)
56. [St. Cloud Hospital, Saint Cloud, Minnesota. CMS Certification Number: 240036](#)
57. [Ridgeview Medical Center, Waconia, Minnesota. CMS Certification Number: 240056](#)

New Jersey

58. [Hackensack Meridian Health JFK University Medical Center, Edison, New Jersey. CMS Certification: 310108](#)

59. [Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Neptune, New Jersey. CMS Certification Number: 310073](#)
60. [Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick, New Brunswick, New Jersey. CMS Certification Number: 310038](#)
61. [Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset, Somerville, New Jersey. CMS Certification Number: 310048](#)

New York

62. [Albany Medical Center, Albany, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330013](#)
63. [Jack D. Weiler Hospital, Bronx, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330059](#)
64. [Montefiore Hospital- Moses Campus, Bronx, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330059](#)
65. [Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330194](#)
66. [Buffalo General Medical Center, Buffalo, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330005](#)
67. [Erie County Medical Center, Buffalo, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330219](#)
68. [Nassau University Medical Center, East Meadow, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330027](#)
69. [Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Jamaica, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330014](#)
70. [North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330106](#)
71. [Long Island Jewish Medical Center, New Hyde Park, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330195](#)
72. [Tisch Hospital, New York, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330214](#)
73. [The Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330024](#)
74. [New York Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330101](#)
75. [Mount Sinai Morningside, New York, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330046](#)
76. [Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330285](#)
77. [Rochester General Hospital, Rochester, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330125](#)
78. [Catholic Health Saint Catherine of Siena Hospital, Smithtown, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330401](#)
79. [Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330393](#)
80. [Crouse Hospital, Syracuse, New York. CMS Certification Number: 330203](#)

Oregon

81. [Saint Alphonsus Medical Center in Baker City, Baker City, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 381315](#)
82. [Kaiser Permanente Sunnyside Medical Center, Clackamas, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380091](#)
83. [Kaiser Permanente Westside Medical Center, Hillsboro, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380103](#)
84. [Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, Hood River, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 381318](#)

85. [Willamette Valley Medical Center, McMinnville, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380071](#)
86. [Providence Milwaukie Hospital, Milwaukie, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380082](#)
87. [Providence Newberg Medical Center, Newberg, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380037](#)
88. [Saint Alphonsus Medical Center – Ontario, Ontario, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380052](#)
89. [Providence Willamette Falls Medical Center, Oregon City, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380038](#)
90. [CHI Saint Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 381319](#)
91. [Oregon Health & Science University Hospital, Portland, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380009](#)
92. [Providence Portland Medical Center, Portland, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380061](#)
93. [Providence St. Vincent Medical Center, Portland, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380004](#)
94. [Mercy Medical Center, Roseburg, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380027](#)
95. [Salem Hospital, Salem, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380051](#)
96. [Providence Seaside Hospital, Seaside, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 381303](#)
97. [McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center, Springfield, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 380020](#)
98. [Adventist Health Tillamook, Tillamook, Oregon. CMS Certification Number: 381317](#)

Vermont

99. [Central Vermont Medical Center, Berlin, Vermont. CMS Certification Number: 470001](#)
100. [Rutland Regional Medical Center, Rutland, Vermont. CMS Certification Number: 470005](#)