







HOSPITAL PRICE TRANSPARENCY

Hospitals are fully committed to providing pricing information

-  Florida hospitals have worked closely with the Legislature and the Agency for almost 20 years on meaningful consumer information on hospital prices and quality. Hospitals are compliant with close to a dozen transparency initiatives, many at the state level.
-  Florida was one of the first in the country to create a comprehensive consumer website with price and quality data (www.Floridahealthfinder.gov) in 2004 using hospital discharge data. In 2016, legislation was adopted to expand data on health care prices by using insurance claims data which more accurately reflects the prices paid by consumers. Florida's hospitals have also quickly adopted enormous new federal transparency requirements to provide more tools for consumers to shop for services.
-  As hospitals continue to advance innovative approaches to support healthcare transparency, it is imperative that lawmakers evaluate the existing inventory of transparency requirements on hospitals, seek to minimize further complexity for consumers, and avoid adding duplicative regulatory burdens that exacerbate the affordability of healthcare services. **Implementing new requirements will be confusing, duplicative, and costly.**

Florida's Hospital Transparency Checklist

-  **Florida Health Price Finder – State driven pricing transparency**
 - Debuted in 2018, 3 years before the federal government adopted their transparency regulation
 - Includes data focused on “care bundles” so consumers could understand the total cost of care and shop for nonurgent health care services. The data reflects health plans contracted with the state i.e., Medicaid Managed Care Plans and the State Health Insurance Program.
 - There are opportunities to further enhance and build upon this successful foundation for transparency.
 - **Price Finder should include all plans in Florida – not just contracted plans**
 - **Florida should leverage existing machine-readable files produced by health plans which include the negotiated rates with hospitals to create more robust, comprehensive, and timely data for consumers.**
-  **Price Estimates for Nonemergency Care**
 - Hospitals must provide an estimate of cost, based on average payment received for the service bundle, within 7 days upon request for nonemergency care.
 - Must include statements that the actual cost may exceed the estimate, web address of financial assistance policies, and notice that the procedure could cost less at another setting. **\$1,000 fine per day of noncompliance.**
-  **Itemized Bill to Each Patient**
 - Upon request, hospitals must provide an itemized bill to patients within 7 days
 - Contains charge information and contact info for hospital billing or additional providers involved in the care plan
 - Itemized bill must be provided before or after payment & identify any facility fee and explain the purpose and must include information on items paid and amounts due

306 E COLLEGE AVE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

850.222.9800
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Required Website Postings

- Link to Florida Health Price Finder
- Financial Assistance Policy
- Payment plans available
- Charity & discount policies
- Participating Health Plans
- Hospital collection procedure
- Signage in admitting area that notifies patients about financial assistance, charity care, Florida Health Price Finder
- Provider Groups under contract

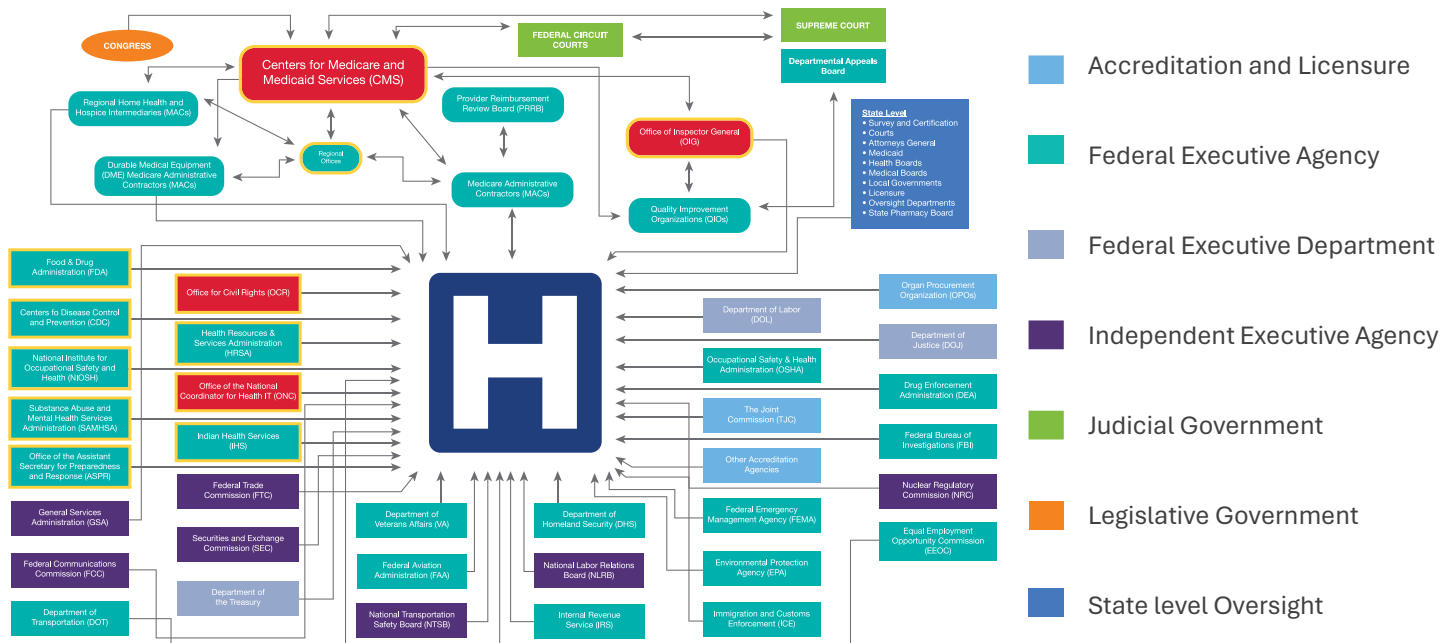


New & Expansive Federal Transparency Requirements

- Beginning 2021, hospitals were required to provide two types of complex pricing data on their websites
 - Prices on 300 Shoppable Services or a Cost Estimator
 - Machine Readable File with pricing data on all items and services
- This new federal regulatory requirement has required significant time and resources by hospitals to implement to ensure that the magnitude of pricing information is available on their websites.
- CMS also required health plans to provide data on 500 shoppable services as well as machine readable files containing consumer price information
- Currently, CMS is further refining the requirements and adding clarity around how this data should be posted

Florida's hospital industry remains fully committed to assisting consumers with determining the cost of their health care services. Many hospitals are providing tools to assist consumers in determining their out-of-pocket costs (deductibles, coinsurance, copays, etc.) for services based on their insurance coverage. As you will see below, hospital regulatory oversight is extremely robust and requires significant investment of resources to maintain the highest level of care at an affordable cost for Florida's patients.

Hospital Regulatory Structure



306 E COLLEGE AVE
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