

Pricing Transparency: Medical and Dental Standard Charges

PUBLIC POSTING OF STANDARD CHARGES ON WEBSITES OF HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTICES

NOVEMBER 2023

The Minnesota Legislature passed legislation in 2023 requiring hospitals and certain medical and dental practices to post standard charges on their websites (Minnesota Statutes, section 62J.826). The legislature directed the commissioner of health to specify the way these health care entities make the information available to the public on their websites.

Types of medical and dental practices impacted by new law

The types of medical and dental practices impacted by the new law includes hospitals; freestanding outpatient surgical centers; and any other medical or dental practice that has revenue of greater than \$50 million per year and acquires 50% of its revenue by providing any combination of the following services:

- Diagnostic radiology services.
- Diagnostic laboratory testing.
- Orthopedic surgical procedures—including joint arthroplasty procedures within the CPT code range of 26990 to 27899.
- Ophthalmologic surgical procedures—including cataract surgery coded using CPT 71.4 code 66982 or 66984—or refractive correction surgery to improve visual acuity.

- Dental services.
- Oncology services—including radiation oncology treatments within the CPT code 71.9 range of 77261 to 77799 and drug infusions.
- Anesthesia services commonly provided as a support to services given at a hospital, outpatient surgical center, or medical practice that provides orthopedic surgical procedures or ophthalmologic surgical procedures.

Effective dates

Hospitals must comply with this requirement by **January 1, 2024**; freestanding outpatient surgical centers and medical and dental practices must comply by **January 1, 2025**.

The following guidance pertains to reporting by hospitals; guidance for surgical centers and medical and dental practices will be forthcoming in 2024.

Required file format and content

Public standard charges—the regular rate established by a hospital or medical or dental practice for an item or service provided to a specific group of paying patients—must be made available to the public using the format and data elements specified in the currently effective

version of the [Hospital Price Transparency Sample Format \(Tall\) \(CSV\) and related data dictionary](#)¹ recommended for hospitals by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

If CMS modifies or replaces the specifications for this format or data elements, the form and content of this file must be modified or replaced to conform with the new CMS specifications by the date specified by CMS for compliance with its new specifications. All prices included in the file must be expressed as dollar amounts, when applicable. The data must be in the form of a comma separated values (.csv) file which can be directly imported, without further editing or remediation, into a relational database table to receive these files. Files must be tested for compliance by the hospital before posting to its website.

For further information about CMS price transparency file and format requirements

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4520.

to make standard charges public, visit the [CMS Hospital Price Transparency page](#)² or the [CMS Resource page](#)³.

Location of “Pricing Transparency” link on website homepage

MDH directs hospitals to place the link leading to downloadable pricing data at the bottom of their website’s homepage to align with the [final CMS rule](#)⁴ (CMS-1786-FC) for the 2024 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System. The link is to be labeled as “Download All Charges as Machine Readable .CSV File.” Compliance with all other CMS requirements specified in the final rule (CMS-1786-FC) pertaining to the downloadable file will constitute compliance with Minnesota’s requirements.

¹ <https://www.cms.gov/files/zip/v11-hospital-price-transparency-machine-readable-file-formats-and-data-dictionary.zip>

² <https://www.cms.gov/hospital-price-transparency/hospitals>

³ <https://www.cms.gov/hospital-price-transparency/resources>

⁴ <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2023-24293/medicare-program-hospitaloutpatient-prospective-payment-and-ambulatory-surgical-center-payment>