IHA and Illinois hospitals support increased price transparency for patients. Hospitals are working hard to develop tools so patients get the information they want: **how much they must pay out of pocket for the healthcare services they need.**

Two tools are now available on hospital websites:

**SHOPPABLE SERVICES TOOL**

- **Who this serves:** Patients
- **What this tool does:**
  - Provides an estimate of what a patient's health plan would pay for a service
  - May provide an estimate of a patient's out-of-pocket cost if insurance information is available
- **What this tool does NOT do:**
  - Provide patients with their actual out-of-pocket cost for individual services rendered
  - May not allow patients to compare prices across providers

**MACHINE-READABLE TOOL**

- **Who this serves:** Researchers and Consumers
- **What this tool does:**
  - Provides a catalogue of all payer-negotiated rates for all active service items (e.g. drugs, supplies, procedures/tests)
  - Builds upon public chargemaster data available through the Affordable Care Act
- **What this tool does NOT do:**
  - Allow for direct comparisons of prices across all payers/plans for services rendered
  - Reflect myriad considerations and differing payment methodologies utilized across payers to determine payment to a provider

Health plans are the best source of information on a patient's out-of-pocket financial obligations for healthcare services. If you have trouble paying your bill or are not insured, please contact your hospital’s patient financial services department for financial assistance information.

**Illinois leads on providing patients with pricing information.** Hospitals are required to provide:
- Estimates upon request for any planned service
- Information on financial assistance available
- Discounts up to 100% for uninsured patients
- Payment plans

Learn more: team-iha.org