



How Much Does That MRI Cost?

📅 December 8, 2025

Most patients don't have a clue. Often the doctor doesn't know either. That's why an MRI can cost anywhere from \$600 at one hospital to \$6,000 at another one a few miles away.

Prices for the Same Procedure Vary 31x Across Hospitals in the Same State.		
MRI Prices		
\$300 Cash Price, Landmark Medical Center	\$2,800 Insured Rate, New England Baptist Hospital	\$7,500 Insured Rate, Mass. General Hospital
Colonoscopy Prices		
\$2,300 Cash Price, Smith Medical Center	\$3,990 Insured Rate, Banner North Colorado MC	\$9,600 Insured Rate, UC Health Parkview MC
Hip Replacement Prices		
\$17,579 Cash Price, Surgical Center of OK	\$17,026 Insured Rate, Jackson County Memorial Hosp.	\$62,580 Insured Rate, OU Health Univ. of OK MC
According to research by Dr. Larry Van Horn and Dr. Art Laffer, cash prices are on average nearly 40% lower than insured rates. ¹		
<small>Price Sources: PatientRightsAdvocate.org Price Variation Report. PatientRightsAdvocate.org Interim Hospital Price Transparency Report. hospitalpricingfiles.org, Surgery Center of Oklahoma price list. Smith Medical Center price list.</small>		
<small>1. R. Lawrence Van Horn, Arthur Laffer, Robert L. Metcalf. 2019. The Transformative Potential for Price Transparency in Healthcare: Benefits for Consumers and Providers. Health Management Policy and Innovation, Volume 4, Issue 3.</small>		



Think about how much money could be saved if people shopped around for the best deal, like we do when we buy groceries or airline tickets.

Thanks to the almost singlehanded lobbying by our friend Cynthia Fisher who runs Patient Rights Advocate, Trump signed

an EO in his first term requiring price transparency at hospitals, clinics, doctor offices and pharmacies.

Guess what? It isn't working. Few health care providers are complying. Worse, the order goes ignored by the arrogant medical establishment with impunity. And prices continue to skyrocket.

Here's our common-sense idea to force the medical industrial complex to start obeying the law lickity-split. If a patient can attest that he/she was never informed of the price of a medical service, the doctor, the hospital, the pharmacy doesn't get paid -whether it's for a pair of crutches, an X-ray, a prescription drug, or a C-section. The patient doesn't pay a dime.

Sorry doc: No price transparency, no pay.



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