

Get the Most Value from Your Benefits

COST ESTIMATOR TOOL

Your health and the health of your family is important to you, to your employer and to your health care providers. Making sure that you get needed care while managing the cost of that care requires effort. Gathering the information you need to make informed choices about care just got a little easier thanks to the cost estimator tool available to MedCost members.

MedCost works to give you information and tools to help you be a better, more active health care consumer—letting you choose providers based on the criteria most important to you. The cost estimator tool brings together information about procedures, providers and costs in one place. This tool lets you see where certain procedures are performed near you and what the approximate costs for that procedure are likely to be. Exact costs will vary, so work with your provider for insight into your actual costs.



How to Use the Cost Estimator

When your provider suggests a procedure:

1. Log in to your member account at www.medcost.com/mymedcost. This is the same place where you can request ID cards, check your benefit information and track your claims.
2. Under “Quick Links” choose “Cost Estimator.”
3. Set your location. The default location is Winston-Salem ZIP Code 27103. You can see it on the right side, near the top of the information box. The word (change) is in color and in parentheses. Choose change and set to your location.
4. Pick the procedure your provider recommended from the drop down list to define your search.

You will automatically see the results of your search.

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How to Interpret Your Search Results

Procedure Information: The search will give you general information about the procedure and why it is most often recommended.

Cost Range: The cost range shown under the name of the procedure is taken from nationwide claims data about this procedure. This broad range is from the lowest cost found in the claims data to the highest.

Ranges Based on Place of Service: Under the descriptive information about the procedure, you will see a more refined breakdown that is color coded by type. These ranges are grouped by where the procedures are performed. For example, this lets you see that you are likely to be charged more at a hospital than at a doctor's office.

Facilities or Providers: This section shows you choices on place of service. Each facility shows the price range where their price is likely to fall. The prices are not specific, as each patient is unique, but this range will let you know how a facility compares to those in your area. Work with your provider to understand the particular variables that can affect your final out-of-pocket expenses.

The locations given in the tool are based on proximity to the ZIP code you entered as your location. So the top of the results are the locations closest to your ZIP code. To broaden your search, enter a procedure and locate the filter button below your search topic. You can then select the distance in which you wish to search.

In addition to address, the tool gives links to reviews on popular review sites when further information is available.

Be an active health care consumer. Use the cost estimator tool to help get the most value from your benefits.

The search results are cost estimation ranges based upon national claims data. The costs do not reflect your specific fee for a procedure; rather, the estimations are intended to bring awareness to the cost of health care services and to provide direction in choosing a facility or provider based on cost estimations and quality data available. Please check to ensure the provider/facility you select is in network.

