



Transparency Tools

Fact Sheet April 2021

PROGRAM HISTORY & OVERVIEW

Colorado is proud to be one of the healthiest states in the country but, despite this achievement, Coloradans face some of the highest health care costs. Pricing drives health care costs, highlighting the importance of transparency efforts.¹ Transparency tools were previously nonexistent, leaving employers, providers and patients with little information when navigating health care costs.

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (the Department) has partnered with Colorado legislators, the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition, Colorado Center Law & Policy, Division of Insurance, Center for Value in Healthcare (CIVHC) and Colorado Hospital Association to bring needed transparency tools to employers and stakeholders in order to improve the understanding of health care costs. Additional information about reporting and tools on pharmacy costs, hospital costs and 2021 legislative bills addressing transparency may be found below.

Hospitals

- Reporting & Tools
 - ✓ [Colorado Cost-Shift Analysis](#): Achieving universal access to health care in Colorado is vital and a goal shared by policymakers, hospitals, providers, advocates, insurance carriers, business groups and, most importantly, Coloradans. While Colorado has made significant progress increasing coverage and access, one of the biggest remaining barriers is the high, and increasing, cost of health care.
 - ✓ [2021 Hospital Expenditure Report](#): This report has a wealth of financial and utilization data as directed by Colorado's recent transparency legislation and includes:
 - The Hospital Community Benefit Accountability Report, authorized by [House Bill \(HB\) 19-1320](#), requires certain hospitals to report on their community benefit.
 - The Hospital Expenditure Report, authorized by [HB19-1001](#) Hospital Transparency Measures To Analyze Efficacy.
- The Department's [Hospital Report Hub](#) is a resource for research and tools about hospital reporting.
- The [All Payer Claims Database² \(APCD\)](#) and [Shop for Care](#): An interactive database and tool to support providers, employers and patients understand the cost of their medical care services.

¹ Health Care Cost Institute. (2020). 2018 Health Care Cost and Utilization Report (Health Care Cost and Utilization Report). Health Care Cost Institute. https://healthcostinstitute.org/images/pdfs/HCCI_2018_Health_Care_Cost_and_Utilization_Report.pdf.

² Colo. Rev. Stats. § 25.5-1-204 (2020)

<https://advance.lexis.com/container?config=0345494EJAA5ZjE0MDIvYy1kNzZkLTRkNzktYTkwMS04YmJhNjBINWUwYzYKAfBvZENhdGFsb2e4CaPl4cak6laXLCWylBO9>.



- Consumers now have access to pricing information for hospital services on hospital websites. For more information visit the [Hospital Price Transparency](#) website.

Prescription Drugs

- Reporting and Tools
 - ✓ [Reducing Prescription Drug Costs in Colorado, 2nd Edition](#): This report includes a mini Rebate Report and outlines state and federal policies on cost savings, and may be especially helpful for employers who would like to save money on drug costs.
 - ✓ The Department is implementing our [Prescriber Tool](#), a multifunctional platform accessible to prescribers through most electronic health records. The goals of the tool are to improve health outcomes, reduce administrative burdens for prescribers and to better manage prescription drug costs.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: GOALS & OUTCOME MEASURES

Coloradans can now [Shop for Care](#) and understand the prices in their neighborhood by visiting the CIVHC APCD. Success in health care cost transparency would be 100% participation by all employers; currently, 4.3 million claims per month are submitted to the APCD by employers, but more data is needed.³

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

ADVOCATE	EDUCATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend your local hospital's public meeting. Each hospital is required to convene a public meeting at least once a year to gain feedback on the hospital's community benefit activities and implementation plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information on the Department's hospital transparency work, please visit our Hospital Transparency site. • To find more on Affordability tools including community partnerships, best practices, and more visit the Affordability website.

For more information contact [Nancy Dolson](#) & [Thomas Leahey](#)

³ Center for Improving Value in Health Care. (2020) 2019 Colorado All Payer Claims Database Annual Report. www.civhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CO-APCD-Statue-2018.pdf.

