



Making more cost-effective health care choices starts here



Typical costs for common medical services

Do you know what the difference in cost is between a visit to the doctor's office and a trip to an urgent care center? How about the average fee for an inpatient hospital stay?

For many of us, the costs associated with our medical care are unknown. But that's changing. As health care evolves, and health care costs increase, everyone's being asked to become more involved in managing their care. With that in mind, consumers may want to take a closer look at just how much a test or special procedure will cost.

Here are examples of the most typical services our members receive—and the costs associated with them. It's important to remember that your doctor is in the best position to understand what's necessary for your care. By working with your physician, the two of you can determine which treatment choices make the most sense for you and your continued good health.

This cost information, along with your cost estimator worksheet, can help you gain a better understanding of your health care expenses.

Estimated member benefit costs

Service: Office visits	Average cost	Low cost	High cost
Established patient visit	\$158	\$60	\$249
New patient visit	\$171	\$60	\$249

These costs do not include any tests or procedures at the time of or following the office visit.

Service: Inpatient stays	Average cost	Low cost	High cost
Medical inpatient admission	\$12,084	\$1,549	\$40,456
Behavioral health inpatient admission	\$2,776	\$128	\$14,216
Normal vaginal delivery without complications, including doctor's fees	\$9,261	\$5,673	\$12,886
Caesarean section delivery without complications, including doctor's fees	\$12,027	\$8,277	\$17,543

Service: Laboratory, radiology in a non-hospital-based physician's office	Average cost	Low cost	High cost
Blood count	\$19	\$10	\$45
Chest X-ray	\$53	\$44	\$59
Comprehensive metabolic panel	\$28	\$15	\$92
EKG	\$43	\$12	\$99
Glycosylated hemoglobin	\$20	\$14	\$41
Lipid panel	\$32	\$20	\$68
Liver function panel	\$31	\$12	\$99
Pap smear	\$46	\$13	\$96
Prothrombin time	\$11	\$6	\$25
PSA (prostate specific antigen) test	\$36	\$27	\$79
Rapid stress throat test	\$24	\$17	\$39
Screening mammogram	\$226	\$180	\$263
Thyroid stimulating hormone test	\$54	\$25	\$143
Urinalysis	\$5	\$4	\$6
Urine pregnancy test	\$19	\$9	\$84

Service: Laboratory, radiology in a hospital-based physician's office	Average cost	Low cost	High cost
Blood count	\$22	\$10	\$47
Chest X-ray	\$119	\$57	\$221
Comprehensive metabolic panel	\$60	\$19	\$307
EKG	\$65	\$24	\$100
Glycosylated hemoglobin	\$29	\$16	\$43
Lipid panel	\$48	\$23	\$91
Liver function panel	\$53	\$14	\$196
Pap smear	\$62	\$13	\$108
Prothrombin time	\$17	\$6	\$31
PSA (prostate specific antigen) test	\$56	\$28	\$96
Rapid stress throat test	\$31	\$21	\$41
Screening mammogram	\$299	\$138	\$489
Thyroid stimulating hormone test	\$81	\$30	\$208
Urinalysis	\$5	\$4	\$6
Urine pregnancy test	\$42	\$11	\$116

Service: Tests and services by location	Average cost	Low cost	High cost
Emergency room visit, minor severity	\$285	\$57	\$708
Urgent care center visit	\$160	\$61	\$275
MRI in a hospital	\$1,383	\$898	\$4,045
MRI in a doctor's office or MRI facility	\$749	\$546	\$1,026
CT scan of the head/brain in a hospital	\$674	\$421	\$1,062
CT scan of the head/brain in a doctor's office	\$609	\$411	\$992
CT scan of the thorax in a hospital	\$897	\$492	\$1,632
CT scan of the thorax in a doctor's office	\$735	\$444	\$1,578
CT scan of the abdomen in a hospital	\$831	\$466	\$1,474
CT scan of the abdomen in a doctor's office	\$627	\$447	\$1,319

These examples are presented as general guidelines for the costs of some of the more common medical procedures. Please note the following information, which applies to all the information contained within this document:

1. Individual experience or costs incurred may vary. This information is intended as an estimate of the costs that may be incurred for frequently used services.
2. This information should not replace your health care provider's advice and direction. You should work with your doctor and health care provider to explore all of your treatment options to make an informed decision about your health care.
3. These examples are based on average costs for FCHP members.
4. Unusually high-cost or low-cost cases are not included.
5. Actual out-of-pocket costs will depend on services received, benefits, negotiated rates for a hospital or professional provider and the billed charges for a hospital or professional provider.
6. The length of time spent in a hospital (inpatient) is based on an average length of stay. A patient's actual length of stay can vary based on the complexity of the case and the amount of time covered by insurance. These figures do not represent the length of stay that may be recommended by your physician or authorized by FCHP.
7. This information does not suggest that any health care service or treatment approach is necessary or unnecessary, nor better or worse than any other service or treatment approach.
8. These figures do not list a specific, actual cost for any specific service or episode of care. Facility and professional billed charges vary from provider to provider.

This guide provides general cost guidelines and should be used as such. No two similar experiences and resulting costs are likely to be the same. For example, if a patient is admitted to the hospital for pneumonia and has a chest X-ray, while a second patient is also admitted to the hospital for pneumonia, but does not have a chest X-ray, the total billed charges for each patient will be different. For data collection purposes, both examples would be considered to be within the same type of care category. This guide illustrates examples of the average costs for members receiving the indicated services; however, individual experiences and costs may vary.

For more information about FCHP plans,
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