

Employee Benefits Advisor

Helping you get the most from your benefit plans.

UnitedHealth Premium® Hospital Comparison Program

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If you have ever been faced with having to choose a hospital for a surgical procedure or test, you know that making such an important choice can be overwhelming. As a UnitedHealthcare plan member, you have a valuable tool to assist you with this vital decision. The UnitedHealth Premium® Hospital Comparison Program provides members with information about hospital quality and cost data when selecting elective, non-emergent hospital care and outpatient procedures. With this comparative quality and cost information, you can choose health care facilities that meet your standards with increased awareness of the costs associated with each of your options.



What is the UnitedHealth Premium® Hospital Comparison Program?

The hospital comparison tool gives UnitedHealthcare plan members direct access to care and cost information regarding 54 inpatient procedures at hospitals in their area. Members search for participating hospitals based on state or zip code, and the procedure or test they expect to have completed. The program provides information about acute care hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers and free-standing radiology centers. However, children's hospitals and other specialty facilities, such as rehabilitation clinics, are not included.

For quality, hospitals are assigned a rating from one to three stars based on treatment outcomes, industry benchmarks and national standards. The program utilizes standards such as those set by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and The Leapfrog Group. These standards are based on outcome, process and structure measures that are specific to each of the 54 medical procedures that the program highlights.

For cost, ratings of "Lower than Average", "Average" or "Higher than Average" are assigned by comparing the average local allowed charge for each procedure to the fee charged by each hospital for the same procedure.

How do I access and use the Hospital Comparison Program?

The UnitedHealth Premium® Hospital Comparison Program can be accessed by members through <http://www.myuhc.com>. Follow the steps below to find the health care facility that best meets your needs and criteria:

1. Go to <http://www.myuhc.com> and log on. You should keep your UnitedHealthcare member ID card handy in order to access your group and ID numbers.
2. Select **Physicians & Facilities** from the Horizontal menu near the top of the page.
3. Click on the link that says **Find Hospital or Other Facility**.
4. Select the **View Quality of Care and Cost Estimates** option, then provide your state or zip code, and click on the **Continue** tab.
5. Select the specific procedure, condition, or test from the list provided by clicking on the corresponding link.

The list of hospitals in your state or zip code where you can receive the care you need will be displayed in a table, along with each hospital's respective quality and cost rating.



If you have any questions about this topic please
contact your RSI Benefit Service Specialist at 1-800-394-6111.