Hospital Price Transparency Rule Updates

American Hospital Association™

Advancing Health in America

July 2024

Since going into effect, CMS has made several changes to the Hospital Price Transparency Rule requirements on hospitals. The most recent set of changes, including requiring hospitals to use a standard machine-readable file format, go into effect July 1, 2024. There are many resources available to help hospitals comply.

Regulatory Timeline

Jan. 1, 2021

Hospital Price Transparency Rule in effect.

- Publicly post machine-readable files with five types of "standard charges"
  - Gross charges
  - Payer-specific negotiated rates
  - De-identified minimum and maximum rates
  - Discounted cash prices
- Provide patients an out-of-pocket cost estimator tool OR a shoppable service spreadsheet with payer-specific negotiated rates for 300 services

Jan. 1, 2024

Technical changes to web accessibility of machine-readable files in effect.

- Update public website root folder .txt file to include:
  - Machine-readable file URL
  - Machine-readable file source page URL
  - Hospital location
  - Point of contact

These technical changes allow reviewers to quickly find hospitals' machine-readable files, especially using AI-enable web-based tools.

July 1, 2024

Changes to standard machine-readable file format in effect.

- Use a standard machine-readable file format that includes:
  - Hospital name, license number, location name, address under single hospital license
  - File version and date of most recent update
  - Descriptions of items/services (both inpatient and outpatient)
  - Standard charges
  - Standard charge methodology
  - Accounting or billing codes
  - Accuracy and completeness statement[1]

Jan. 1, 2025

Additional data elements in effect.

- Incorporate additional data elements into the standard format:
  - Estimated allowed amount[2]
  - Modifiers (description, change)
  - Prescription drug unit, measurement (among other Rx data)

Did you know?

CMS publishes a regularly updated enforcement actions list that includes hospital name, location and enforcement action taken.

Resources

CMS and the AHA have several resources to assistant hospitals with compliance. Click on these links for more information.

CMS GitHub repository with schemas, discussion forum and examples	**CMS Online machine-readable file validator tool**	**CMS Command-line interface machine-readable file validator tool**	**CMS Machine-readable file naming wizard**
CMS TXT file generator	**AHA Webinar on Implementing the New Requirements**	**AHA summary of the new CY24 requirements**	**AHA Price Transparency Fact Sheet**

Contacts

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1. **https://github.com/CMSgov/hospital-price-transparency/tree/master/documentation/CSV#additional-affirmation-notes**

2. Average dollar amount a hospital historically received for an item or service. Only required in conjunction with negotiated rates that are not in dollar amounts.