



HEALTHCARE PRICE TRANSPARENCY IN MISSOURI

The Policy



Healthcare price transparency is the essential practice of providing clear and accessible information about the costs of medical services and procedures. This empowers Missourians to make informed decisions and encourages competition among healthcare providers to help mitigate high healthcare expenses.

Urgent Reforms



Reform 1: CODIFY ENHANCED FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Define state laws mirroring federal transparency rules
- Ensure accessible, machine-readable, and consumer-friendly price lists
- Consider additional measures like requiring prices in actual dollars and historical data retention



Reform 2: STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT AND NONCOMPLIANCE PENALTIES

- Proactive monitoring and audits by state health agency
- Penalties based on bed count, ranging from \$600 to \$11,000 per day for noncompliant hospitals.
- Scrutiny and potential delays for license renewal applications



Reform 3: PATIENT PROTECTION

Ban noncompliant hospitals from pursuing patients for unpaid bills

Shield patients from debt collection activities and reporting to consumer agencies

Allow patients to sue to determine a hospital's compliance status and seek financial restitution

PUBLIC SUPPORT

According to a 2019 Harvard-Harris poll, 88% of Americans favor requiring insurers, hospitals, doctors, and other providers to disclose the cost of their services. A growing body of evidence suggests that the U.S. healthcare system suffers from a lack of competition, which enables hospitals in concentrated markets to charge prices that are incommensurate with the quality of care.



Talk to a Policy Expert

Aaron Hedlund

Chief Economist

Aaron.Hedlund@showmeinstitute.org