Using this Information

This report provides hospital price comparisons for ten common conditions. The information in this report is general information only. Statistical and technical language have been omitted. However, you can use this brochure to ask questions of your doctor, hospital or insurance company representative and let them know you plan to take an active role in your health care decisions.

The charges in this report are only averages and may differ from what you are, or were billed. Unusually high charges were excluded from the calculations. For each condition, the average was calculated as in the following example:

\[
\frac{\text{total appendectomy charge}}{\text{total number of patients}} = \text{average appendectomy charge}
\]

Hospital charges may vary for a number of different reasons. Hospitals differ in the types and severity of patients they treat and the kinds of services they offer. Teaching hospitals and large referral centers may charge more as they treat patients who are more likely to require high cost medical procedures.

For additional brochures, call The Office of Health Care Statistics at (801) 538-7048.
Become an Informed Health Care Consumer

Take Responsibility for Your Health
Be proactive in your family’s health care. Don’t wait until you have a medical emergency to learn about your health plan coverage.

Plan Ahead
Select a health plan that meets your needs before you become ill or need medical services. Select doctors and hospitals you trust. Check that they will work with your insurance company and are reasonably priced.

Be Knowledgable
Know your personal and family medical history. Know your rights and responsibilities as a patient. Know the rules of your insurance plan before you use medical services.

Be Informed
Learn about your own and your family’s illnesses. Find out about the latest treatments, and alternatives to surgery. Consider yourself a partner in your care and treatment. Have questions ready ahead of time to ask your doctor, health insurance plan representative, or hospital personnel.

Speak Up
No one knows more about you than you do! Tell your doctor about your symptoms and what you think may be causing them. Ask what types of treatments are available and why your health care professionals are suggesting one treatment rather than another.

Ask Questions
Be informed about your alternatives. Have questions ready ahead of time to ask your doctor, health plan representative, or hospital personnel. For example:

- What do my symptoms mean?
- What tests do I need and why do I need them?
- What are the risks if I have surgery?
- How much will my insurance cover?
- What services are included in the hospital charges?
- How soon can I return to my normal activities?

Avoid Unnecessary Treatment
Your doctor’s decisions about your care can account for as much as three-quarters of your medical bills. Save time and money by seeking the best treatment for your needs. Reduce unforeseen costs by choosing the right insurance plans and using providers within your health plan when possible. Find out your options by asking questions, such as:

- Is surgery or medication necessary? Why?
- Can my tests or surgery be done somewhere besides the hospital?
- What other treatments are available?
- What changes can I make, such as diet and exercise, to help my condition?

Make Healthy Life-style Choices
The best way to reduce health care costs is to develop lifelong habits that keep you healthy.

- Don’t smoke
- Limit the amount of alcohol you drink
- Exercise regularly
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Eat a nutritious diet low in fat and high in fiber
- Maintain a sense of humor and keep life’s frustrations and challenges in perspective

Prevent Injuries and Illness
You can avoid medical treatment by preventing illness and creating a safe home and work environment.

- Get regular checkups and exams
- Take advantage of free health tests
- Schedule health screening tests recommended for your age, sex, and risk group
- Select an insurance plan with good preventive care coverage
- Always wear a seat belt - For motorcycle and bicycle riding, always wear a helmet
- Never drink and drive
- Get rid of safety hazards at home and at work
- Keep guns locked up
- Install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers
- Wear sunscreen
- Ask your doctor for suggestions on how to make your home safe for children

Utah Department of Health Resources
Other sources of health care consumer information provided by Utah Department of Health:

- For HMO enrollees satisfaction survey and “report card” results, call the Office of Health Care Statistics, (801) 538-7048, or visit the UHCS website at www.healthdata.state.ut.us
- Check Your Health Hotline: 1-888-222-2542
- Baby Your Baby Hotline: 1-800-826-9662
## 1998 Average Utah Hospital Charges

### Average Inpatient Charges for Utah’s Most Common Conditions Requiring Hospital Admission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitals in rural areas:</th>
<th>Pneumonia Age 17+</th>
<th>Asthma Age 0-17</th>
<th>Bronchitis Age 0-17</th>
<th>Heart Procedure</th>
<th>Heart Failure &amp; Shock</th>
<th>Appendectomy</th>
<th>Cholecystectomy</th>
<th>Joint Rep. Limb Reat.</th>
<th>Back &amp; Neck Procedures</th>
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### Hospitals in urban areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitals in urban areas:</th>
<th>DRG (89)</th>
<th>DRG (91)</th>
<th>DRG (98)</th>
<th>DRG (112)</th>
<th>DRG (127)</th>
<th>DRG (167)</th>
<th>DRG (198)</th>
<th>DRG (209)</th>
<th>DRG (500)</th>
<th>DRG (430)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

DRG (89) DRG (91) DRG (98) DRG (112) DRG (127) DRG (167) DRG (198) DRG (209) DRG (500) DRG (430)
**Illness Category Definitions**

**Descriptions of the Ten Most Common Conditions in Utah Requiring Hospitalization**

**DRG (Diagnoses Related Group)** is a classification of a hospital stay in terms of what was wrong with and what was done for a patient. The classification is determined based on diagnoses, clinical procedures, patient age, gender, length of stay, and other factors.

**DRG 89:** Pneumonia (acute inflammation or infection of the lung) age 17 or older with complications. Includes bacterial pneumonia, pleurisy, and tuberculosis.

**DRG 891:** Simple pneumonia and pleurisy, without complications, under the age of 17.

**DRG 98:** Bronchiitis and asthma under the age of 17. Inflammation or disease of the bronchi of the lungs.

**DRG 112:** Percutaneous cardiovascular procedures. Heart/blood vessel procedures performed through the skin.

**DRG 127:** Heart failure and shock. Inability of the heart to perform its proper function of pumping.

**DRG 167:** Appendectomy. The uncomplicated surgical removal of the appendix; no other conditions or illness which complicate treatment.

**DRG 198:** Cholecystectomy. The uncomplicated surgical removal of the gall bladder; no other conditions or illness which complicate treatment.

**DRG 209:** Major joint replacement (total knees, hips, ankles) and major limb reattachment (hand, foot, forearm, and lower leg).

**DRG 500:** Uncomplicated surgeries and procedures on spine and vertebra of back and neck. Patient has no other illness or condition complicating treatment.

**DRG 430:** Psychoses. Major emotional and personality disorders such as schizophrenia, catatonia, manic disorders, bipolar affective disorders, and paranoia which may cause patient to lose contact with reality. Functional psychoses have no known physical cause and organic psychoses is the result of brain damage.