

Utah Hospital Consumer Guide

1998 Average Inpatient Hospital Charges for
Utah's Most Common Conditions Requiring
Hospital Admission



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This report is published to increase consumer awareness of health care costs. For more copies write to the above address or call (801) 538-7048.
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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.

This brochure is a Health Data Committee Publication. The Utah Health Data Committee was established by the Utah legislature in 1990 to collect, analyze and distribute statewide health-care data.

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 Knowledgeable

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

	Pneumonia Age 17+	Asthma Age 0-17	Bronchitis Age 0-17	Heart Procedure	Heart Failure & Shock	Appen- dectomy	Cholecys- tectomy	Joint Rep. Limb Reat.	Back & Neck Procedures	Psychoses
Hospitals in rural areas:	DRG (89)	DRG (91)	DRG (98)	DRG (112)	DRG (127)	DRG (167)	DRG (198)	DRG (209)	DRG (500)	DRG (430)
Allen Memorial Hospital	\$5,203	\$2,298	\$1,998	—	\$2,822	\$4,328**	—	—	—	\$4,505**
Ashley Valley Medical Center	5,339	3,569	2,542	—	4,722	6,164	—	16,870	—	—
Bear River Valley Hospital	3,892	1,898	1,893	—	3,236	3,123	—	9,235	—	—
Beaver Valley Hospital	3,061	2,466	2,563	—	2,269	3,873**	—	—	—	—
Brigham City Community Hospital	5,326	2,697	2,427	—	4,532	5,424	5,967**	17,560	6,437	—
Castleview Hospital	6,548	5,629	6,414	—	6,712	9,109**	—	21,686	12,036	—
Central Valley Medical Center	5,107	3,511	3,288	—	4,672	4,475	—	—	—	10,538**
Delta Community Medical Center	4,645	3,688**	1,630**	—	4,571	3,845	—	—	—	—
Dixie Medical Center	6,771	4,216	3,912	—	6,066	4,558	7,593**	16,115	5,655	5,659
Fillmore Community Medical Center	3,851	2,777	2,175**	—	2,877	4,017**	—	—	—	—
Garfield Memorial Hospital	4,991	2,524	2,690	—	4,200	4,180	—	—	—	772**
Gunnison Valley Hospital	5,386	2,619	3,253	—	5,976	5,278**	5,951**	—	—	—
Kane County Hospital	6,914	3,192	3,909	—	4,253	6,615**	—	—	—	—
Logan Regional Hospital	6,115	3,013	3,305	—	5,230	3,028	3,795**	16,366	4,223	6,689
Milford Valley Memorial Hospital	7,940	2,361	2,513	—	3,345	4,866**	—	—	—	—
San Juan Hospital	3,585	2,264	2,551	—	5,377	3,876**	8,436**	—	—	—
Sanpete Valley Hospital	4,987	2,612	2,829	—	3,935	5,383**	14,952**	—	—	—
Sevier Valley Hospital	6,232	4,132	2,872	—	5,290	3,459	—	17,066	—	1,798**
Timpanogos	8,296	5,088	5,392	—	8,313	6,361	—	18,333	6,386	7,939**
Tooele Valley Regional Medical Center	6,573	2,475	3,124	—	4,484	6,095**	—	—	—	3,947**
Uintah Basin Medical Center	5,157	2,943	3,582	—	5,379	3,702	—	13,374**	—	—
Valley View Medical Center	6,650	5,369	5,348	—	4,304	5,660	6,166**	15,706	6,227	2,184**
Wasatch County Hospital	5,107	3,198	2,067	—	3,555	4,080	6,517**	—	—	3,912**
Hospitals in urban areas:	DRG (89)	DRG (91)	DRG (98)	DRG (112)	DRG (127)	DRG (167)	DRG (198)	DRG (209)	DRG (215)	DRG (430)

Hospitals in urban areas:	DRG (89)	DRG (91)	DRG (98)	DRG (112)	DRG (127)	DRG (167)	DRG (198)	DRG (209)	DRG (215)	DRG (430)
Alta View Hospital	\$7,671	\$5,112**	\$7,936**	—	\$6,603	\$3,014	\$8,562**	\$14,225	\$5,301	—
American Fork Hospital	5,560	3,825	3,139	—	4,393	2,959	5,404**	16,293	—	6,694**
Cottonwood Hospital	7,455	4,067	3,265	18,994	7,683	2,959	6,948	17,410	5,034	3,939**
Davis Hospital & Medical Center	5,410	3,311	3,523	13,239	5,678	5,379	11,661	17,066	7,149	13,286
HCA St. Mark's Hospital	7,453	2,818	2,867	17,282	7,037	5,157	9,093	18,021	8,202	4,800**
Jordan Valley Hospital	2,732	1,093	605	—	4,647	4,978	6,667**	17,170	—	—
Lakeview Hospital	8,532	3,123**	1,693**	16,667	7,137	5,582	11,288**	15,782	8,281	6,946
LDS Hospital	7,740	—	2,216**	15,225	7,794	5,379	5,997	18,414	5,485	7,366
McKay Dee Hospital	6,124	5,387	4,672	17,695	5,674	4,268	7,989	17,990	6,915	6,618
Mountain View Hospital	9,628	5,987	4,661	9,689**	8,064	5,804	—	18,757	8,332	5,314
Ogden Regional Medical Center	6,359	4,559	4,358	13,970	5,335	4,426	9,523	15,362	7,954	2,900
Orem Community Hospital	4,997	4,620**	—	—	4,282	3,997	—	14,887**	6,507	—
Pioneer Valley Hospital	6,425	3,878	2,408	0**	5,470	7,759	12,302**	20,413	8,762**	2,346**
Primary Children's Medical Center	10,447**	4,704	4,182	16,279	8,724	4,542	5,049**	20,513	8,618	7,495
Salt Lake Regional Medical Center	7,238	5,707**	1,389**	20,554	7,567	4,467	13,462**	19,492	8,768	—
South Davis Community Hospital	2,667	2,153**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
University of Utah Hospital	9,033	11,009	17,743**	12,165	8,257	5,989	9,553	21,959	8,957	14,569
Utah Valley Medical Center	8,774	5,061	3,998	12,232	7,198	3,454	5,447	16,158	4,543	5,963
State Average	\$6,830	\$4,191	\$3,912	\$14,622	\$6,274	\$4,109	\$8,375	\$17,605	\$6,252	\$7,655

Note: Utah hospital charges exclude physician charges and are average charges, prices may vary.

**=Based on less than four discharges — = No discharges in 1998

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 91: Simple pneumonia and pleurisy, without complications, under the age of 17.

DRG 98: Bronchitis 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.