
Transparency and Health Care

Selected Highlights

Current Topic. For example:

"[E]mployers are focusing more on creating greater marketplace transparency to control costs and improve clinical outcomes." Hewitt Survey, Press Release, <http://was4.hewitt.com/hewitt/resource/newsroom/pressrel/2005/01-10-05.htm> (4/18/06)

"The need for price transparency is emerging as one of the hotter topics in the area of consumer directed health care." NCSL <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/Transparency.htm> (4/10/06)

"Transparency and better public information on cost and quality are essential for three reasons: 1) to help providers improve by benchmarking their performance against others; 2) to encourage private insurers and public programs to reward quality and efficiency; and 3) to help patients make informed choices about their care." http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=361215 (4/18/06)

Examined on the State and Federal Level. For example:

In addition to states with existing laws, at least 17 states, including Utah, had proposed legislation for 2005/2006 relating to price disclosure. NCSL <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/Transparency.htm> (4/10/06)

Congress is examining. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/printfriendlynews.php?newsid=39876> (4/18/06)

Federal plans are to publish prices Medicare pays for common procedures. Washington Post, Medicare Rates to Be Posted, March 17 2006

Private industry is addressing. Deseret News, Web site offers true picture of medical costs -- for a fee, March 20, 2006

Examples of Possible Issues. For example:

Is price information adequate without information on the total cost of caring for a condition and the quality or outcomes of that care? Related to http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=361215 (4/18/06)

Is there a need for comparative information? Related to http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=361215 (4/18/06)

Will it shift more health care costs to individuals? Related to <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/printfriendlynews.php?newsid=39876> (4/18/06)

Who can best use the information? Related to http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=361215 (4/18/06)

Are web-based disclosure plans and other technology effective? Related to NCSL <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/Transparency.htm> (4/10/06)

Who should be subject to transparency? Related to <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/printfriendlynews.php?newsid=39876> (4/18/06)

Other