

Estimate My Costs How-To Guide

Introduction

Estimate My Costs helps you understand how much you might pay for health care under each plan (based on your medical visits and the drugs you use). <http://www.puttingpatientsfirst.net/calc>

My Cost Report



My Cost Report shows how much you may have to pay for marketplace health plans in your state.

Your estimated health care costs are the sum of your expected annual premiums and out-of-pocket costs (deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance). You should learn about the medicines and doctor services a health plan will pay for and how much they charge for them before enrolling.

All marketplace health plans must offer a minimum set of health services. But, the specific services and medications each plan pays for might be different. After using Estimate My Costs, learn more about your health plan options at <https://www.healthcare.gov/get-coverage/>.

Help Me Decide



Total Costs

Here you can learn about the different costs of a health plan. When you enroll in a health plan you pay a monthly premium plus different out-of-pocket costs. The out-of-pocket costs include deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance. Copayments and coinsurance are how much you must pay for each doctor's visit or medicine. Some plans have low monthly premiums but charge a lot for doctor visits and drugs. Some plans with higher premiums will have lower out-of-pocket costs. Most health plans also charge you more if you use a doctor that is not included in the plan's list of providers.

When you shop in the marketplace, plans with the lowest premium are usually listed at the top of the page. The total cost you have to pay for premiums plus out-of-pocket costs is the most important cost to consider. If you want help to find the right plan for you, visit <https://localhelp.healthcare.gov/>.



Financial Help

Many people can get financial assistance to help make marketplace plans more affordable. Financial assistance is based on income, family size, and a few other things, such as citizenship status. In this section you can learn if you qualify for financial assistance or Medicaid.



Prescription Medications

Marketplace plans cover specific prescription drugs (called a formulary). Most marketplace plans place each drug they cover in a tier. Generic drugs are on lower tiers and brand drugs on higher tiers. Drugs in lower tiers usually cost less than drugs in higher tiers. When shopping for a health plan, you should look at plan formularies to make sure the prescription medicines you use are covered and understand the tier for each drug.



Providers and Services

Marketplace plans cover different health care services. Most marketplace plans have contracts with a specific list of health care providers, including doctors and hospitals. These doctors and hospitals are called “in network” for the plan. To keep your costs as low as possible, you should check to see that the services you need are covered and your providers are in the plan’s network before you get care, if possible.

Conclusion

If you would like a copy of My Cost Report (<http://www.puttingpatientsfirst.net/calc>), you can print it or email it. This website does not save your information or share it with anyone. It also might be helpful to compare My Cost Report with the information you get for health plans from your state’s marketplace website or <http://www.healthcare.gov>.