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CARDIAC CARE

Low Hospitals in your Area Rate on Cardiac Care
The VHI Cardiac Care Report Ranks Hospitals on Admission and Mortality Rates

Richmond, Va., March 6, 2013 -- www.vhi.org is the Most Comprehensive Source for Virginia Health Information

Richmond, Va., March 6, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Patients and providers alike want to help avoid returning to the hospital after cardiac care. However, as many as one out of every six congestive heart failure patients return to the hospital within 30 days. So where do consumers find out how hospitals in their area stack up?

Virginia Health Information (VHI) is a click away and has just released the most up-to-date information on cardiac care. The latest data shows that while hospital readmission rates after a heart-related procedure is almost double among Medicaid and Medicare patients compared to those who are commercially insured, that rate has been steadily decreasing over the past three years. To access the report, go to www.vhi.org, click on cardiac care, type in your zip code and mile radius, then click show results and compare hospitals.

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"What is unique about... why' for the service, but... providing the 'what and services provided in a doctor's office, ambulatory surgical center or hospital," said Michael T. Lundberg, VHI executive director, in a news release.

The biggest differences in cost are driven by the place where a procedure is performed. For insurance payment for a bone density scan in a physician's office was \$256. That same outpatient setting cost more than double, \$549, despite the radiologist and physician being in a hospital outpatient setting. In the latter procedure, there was no differentiation between the radiologist and anesthesiologist in the different locations.

formed in a physician's office (\$1,557), licensed ambulatory surgical center (\$2,377), reflected the typical range in average allowed costs according to setting.

breakdown by facility fees and compensation for attending medical... and possibilities for negotiation

12

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HMO

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SOURCE Virginia Health Information

HMO Enrollment Grows to More Than 1.1 million in Virginia

RICHMOND, Va., Oct. 1, 2012 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- For the tenth consecutive year, Virginia Health Information (VHI) is offering employers and health care consumers in Virginia a tool with which they can compare and track HMO performance on key cost and quality measures. "HMO Compare," a free, online report published today, contains a wealth of reliable data to inform the purchasers of health care coverage during the open enrollment season. The report may be viewed on VHI's website at http://vhi.org/hmo_compare.asp.

According to the report, average premiums per member per month increased 7% from 2010 to 2011. "Companies with HMO's can't afford to compare their health care options," said John Fuller, a business representative on the VHI Board of Directors and Director of Global Benefits for MeadWestvaco. "In today's dynamic market, it's important for employers to be a savvy consumer and understand the options available to them."

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