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### Online site offers cost comparisons for common health procedures

By Prue Salasky

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Virginia Health Information has released its 2012 Health Care Pricing Report, now in its fourth year. The free online report contains pricing information on common medical procedures, ranging from a mammogram to a knee replacement. It's particularly useful for the uninsured and those with high-deductible insurance plans to determine the range of costs and where to find the least expensive procedure. Find the information here: [http://www.vhi.org/health\\_care\\_prices.asp](http://www.vhi.org/health_care_prices.asp)

Consumers can also compare hospital efficiency at [www.vhi.org/efficiency\\_compare.asp](http://www.vhi.org/efficiency_compare.asp). The report gives a detailed report on different areas of cost, but combines it into a simple composite efficiency score. The lowest score is considered the best. On the Peninsula, Bon Secours Mary Immaculate Hospital received the lowest composite score, 1.7, followed by Riverside Regional Medical Center and Sentara CarePlex tied at 1.9; Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center scored a 2.5.

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