

dailypress.com/health/health-notes-blog/dp-health-notes-vhi-compare20120605,0,7951738.story

dailypress.com

VHI allows consumers to compare costs, etc., for outpatient procedures

By Prue Salasky

10:35 AM EDT, June 5, 2012

Virginia Health Information has empowered Virginians with information previously unavailable to consumers with publication of their [Outpatient Procedure Information](#). Based on three years of data, the report explains the type of procedure, how often it is performed at each place and the charges. **VHI's** goal is to help patients make better informed health care choices.

Virginia Health Information (VHI) is the nonprofit organization that businesses, consumers, the Commonwealth of Virginia and health insurance companies go to for health information. VHI publishes reports and consumer guides on health insurance, hospitals, HMOs, nursing facilities, physicians and other topics at www.vhi.org.

VHI collects outpatient information from hospital outpatient departments, licensed ambulatory surgical centers and doctor offices across Virginia. Consumers can search for local facilities and choose from 10 different routine types of procedures. **VHI** chose these procedures because they are frequently performed, their real or perceived risk to the patient, and variation in the amount charged for a procedure. Information is available on:

- Breast surgery
- Facial surgery
- General laparoscopic procedures
- Hysterectomy
- Liposuction
- Colonoscopy
- Gall bladder removal
- Hernia repair
- Knee surgery
- Gynecological procedures

The report notes that charges for procedures may be twice as much or more than what health insurance

advertisement



companies may pay. To help consumers get a better idea of their costs, **VHI** includes the average amount that health insurance companies "allow" for some of the outpatient procedures. If you need to know more about your expected costs, always talk with the facility or your doctor before you have your procedure.

Michael T. Lundberg, **VHI's** Executive Director notes, "This information explains what the procedure is, why you would need it, the risks and healing time you might go through. VHI then adds specific information on those doctors and places doing the procedures."

To find the latest updates on health care data and statistics, find and like VHI on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vahealth.

For more health news, go to www.dailypress.com/health

Copyright © 2012, [Newport News, Va., Daily Press](#)