



The North Carolina Healthcare Association and our members support price transparency so that consumers can make better-informed decisions about their healthcare. Similarly, we support transparency around patient care quality, safety and other data and information to support consumer decision-making. It is the right thing to do and is in the best interests of our patients and communities.

The effort toward pricing transparency is a work in progress for all U.S. hospitals. Over time, hospitals are learning what information is most helpful to consumers and are working with patients, physicians, insurers and government entities to develop ways to help patients better understand out-of-pocket costs prior to making healthcare decisions.

Regarding compliance with federal price transparency rules, a majority of North Carolina hospitals are already compliant. A [July 2023 report from patientsrightsadvocate.org](https://www.patientsrightsadvocate.org/reports/2023-07-10-north-carolina-hospitals-compliance-with-price-transparency-rule) found that **North Carolina is among the top 10 states with the highest percentage of hospitals complying with the price transparency rule.** Moreover, the suggestion that hospitals “hide” prices from patients is absolutely false.

Regarding hospital pricing, it is important to note that hospitals are not price setters, they are rate takers. Hospitals do not negotiate with Medicare. We do not negotiate with Medicaid. Government payers reimburse healthcare providers a set amount that is typically not sufficient to reimburse providers for care they deliver to patients. Hospitals do negotiate with commercial payers and those negotiations are conducted between two mature organizations at arms-length, like other legal business arrangements.

North Carolina hospitals and health systems work hard to keep their organizations efficient and effective. They strive to keep healthcare as affordable as possible for patients while still being able to have sufficient resources to run their organizations and keep their doors open. They are committed to complying with federal transparency requirements and we think they have made great progress with it.