

Heavy price: Medicare overpaying for back braces

December 19 2012, by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

A new report says Medicare has been paying more than \$900 for a standard-type back brace you can find on the Internet for \$250 or less.

In a report to be released Wednesday, investigators say Medicare paid an average of \$919 for back braces that cost suppliers \$191 apiece, a window on how wasteful spending drives up [health care costs](#).

The [inspector general](#) at the federal Health and Human Services Department says [Medicare](#) and its beneficiaries could have saved millions of dollars if what the program paid more closely reflected the cost to suppliers.

A copy of the report was obtained by The Associated Press.

Investigators decided to take a look after costs for the back braces went up \$60 million in just a few years.

Copyright 2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Heavy price: Medicare overpaying for back braces (2012, December 19) retrieved 20 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-12-heavy-price-medicare-overpaying-braces.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is

provided for information purposes only.