

Wide variation in health care costs across the U.S.

April 29 2016



(HealthDay)—Health care prices vary widely across the United States,

even within the same state, according to a study published in the April issue of *Health Affairs*.

Cost differences for the same procedures can be huge, according to the Health Care Cost Institute study of the prices paid by patients with private insurance, *NBC News* reported.

For example, the national average cost of a [knee replacement](#) is \$33,098, but the cost is nearly \$39,000 in Indiana and Minnesota, \$40,000 in New Hampshire and Wisconsin, and \$43,000 in Oregon but just \$24,000 in New Jersey. The national average price of a pregnant woman's ultrasound is \$268, but the procedure costs \$895 in Alaska and \$201 in Arizona. The national average for removal of a cataract is \$3,300, but that procedure costs \$8,000 in Alaska and \$2,300 in Florida.

Even within a state, there can be large differences in price. The California average for a knee replacement is just under \$40,000, but the surgery costs \$57,000 in Sacramento, *NBC News* reported.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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