
PRESENTATION OF CHIA'S TRANSPARENCY AGENDA

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June 13, 2018

CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS



Overview

CHIA's transparency agenda includes two distinct yet related initiatives:

1. CompareCare: A recently launched consumer information website, developed pursuant to CHIA's enabling statute
2. "Big Transparency": The release of large amounts of price data to give market participants — employers, policy makers, payers, providers, researchers, and digital health companies — more visibility into prices and pricing patterns in the Massachusetts health care market; currently under development

Visit www.MassCompareCare.gov



CompareCare

A TRUSTED SERVICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Find the right healthcare options for you and your family



Compare Treatment Costs

Check the average cost for common procedures.



Get Quality Care

Find quality ratings for health care providers.



Ask Informed Questions

Ask the most important questions to get better care.



Troubleshoot an Issue

Get help resolving common issues with health insurance and care.

An Introduction to CompareCare

- Consumer-oriented site aimed at helping Massachusetts residents be more actively engaged in, and make better decisions about their health care (launched May 2018)
- Five main types of information:
 1. Procedure pricing tool
(Uses APCD data to show payer-specific prices for almost 300 procedures delivered by over 1,000 providers)
 2. Patient decision support
 3. Provider quality ratings
 4. Resources to resolve common health care issues and problems
 5. Links to carriers' website for out-of-pocket estimates

CompareCare: Next Steps

- Actively solicit user feedback to identify areas for better content and other improvements
- In addition to major updates that will come at intervals of 9-12 months, make continuous site updates

PHASE II:

Incorporate additional data, including

- Choosing Wisely Massachusetts (clinician-led effort to avoid low value procedures)
- Prices for inpatient services and more complex outpatient services
- Drug/pharmacy prices
- National payer data

Big Transparency

CHIA is developing a big data approach to transparency, which will provide access to much larger amounts of price information than is readily available through the CompareCare website

- The Big Transparency data table is the same table that sits behind CompareCare's procedure pricing tool, although it could be enhanced with additional fields
- The table has more than 200,000 rows of data, with each row showing a specific price, paid by a specific insurer, to a specific provider, for a specific procedure
- The pricing information covers ~300 outpatient procedures

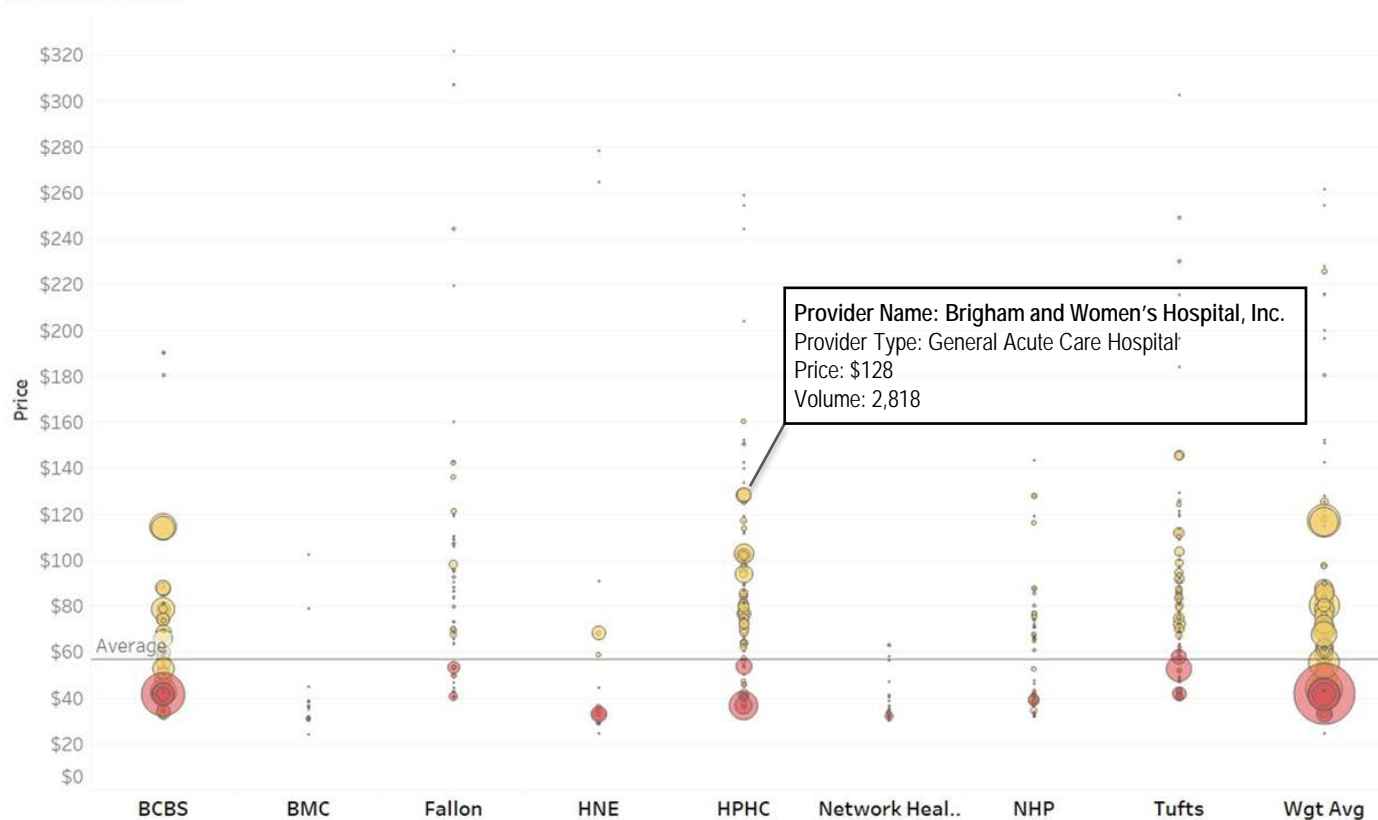
Big Transparency could be utilized by market participants (e.g., employers, payers, providers, consultants, researchers, policy makers, state agencies, and digital health companies)

Price Variation: Vitamin D-3 Test

Provider Type

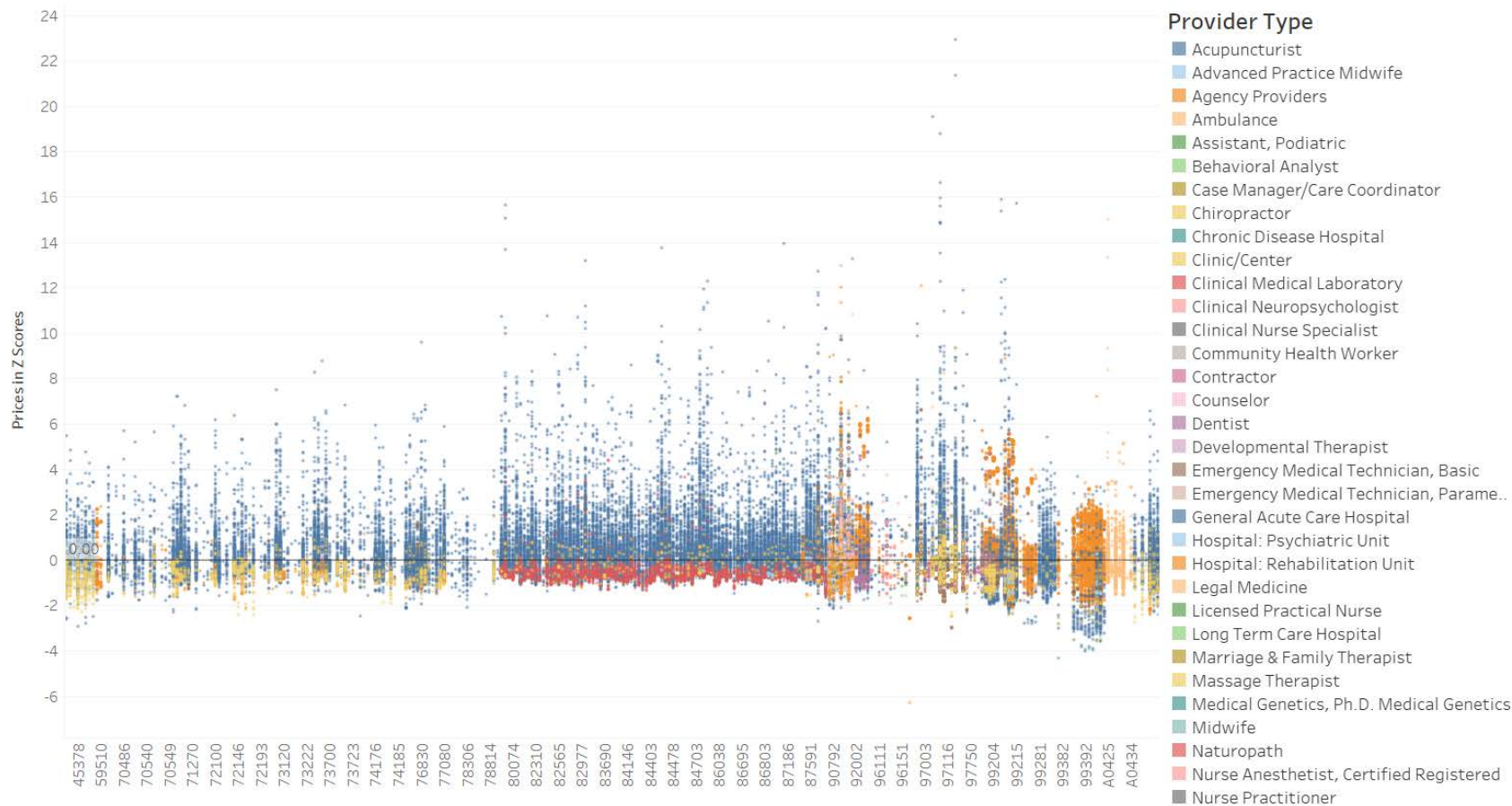


Vitamin D-3 level



“Wide View” of Price Variation in Massachusetts

Provider Price Variation Across 300 Procedures



Big Transparency: Next Steps

- Publish a strategy document outlining:
 1. Plans to publish weighted average price data underpinning CompareCare in its entirety
 2. Anticipated future state improvements
- Solicit comments from stakeholders
- Subsequently release weighted average prices, with capability to generate payer-specific prices, as needed
- Announce data science competition upon public release of data

Future Phase

- Collaborate with insurers to support further development of their cost estimator tools, as required by law
- Continue to update Big Transparency, to include other data such as inpatient and drugs/pharmacy, and adding data beyond 2015
- Evaluate the development of new price and efficiency metrics requested by stakeholders
- Partner with other state entities (the Connector, DOI, GIC, MassHealth) for a more complete view of the data employers and individuals need to make better decisions when choosing benefit plans, insurance coverage, PCPs, specialists, and procedures