

Hospital price transparency: Quick explanation of file types

The CMS requires hospitals publish shoppable services in machine-readable files and consumer-friendly files. Here is a breakdown of what's required for both:

| | Machine readable file | Consumer-friendly file |
|---|---|---|
| General requirement | Single comprehensive machine readable file containing a list of standard charges, as applicable, for all items and services. | Some standard charge information, as applicable, for at least 300 shoppable services including 70 CMS-specified services presented in a consumer friendly manner. The primary shoppable service must be grouped with any ancillary services the hospital customarily provides as part of or in conjunction with the primary service. |
| Standard charges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross charge Discounted cash price Payer-specific negotiated charges De-identified minimum negotiated charge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discounted cash price (or gross charge, where the hospital has not established a discounted cash price) Payer-specific negotiated charges De-identified minimum negotiated charge De-identified maximum negotiated charge |
| Description of item or service and billing codes | A description of each item or service along with, as applicable, any code used by the hospital for purposes of accounting or billing for the item or service. | A plain-language description of each shoppable service along with, as applicable, any primary code used by the hospital for purposes of accounting or billing for the shoppable service. |
| Service not offered by hospital | No requirement | Use an indicator when one or more of the CMS-specified shoppable services are not offered by the hospital (for example, N/A). |
| Format | A single digital file that is machine-readable | No requirement |
| Naming convention | Must adhere to the CMS naming convention: <ein>_<hospital- name>_standardcharges. [json xml csv] | No requirement |

| | Machine readable file | Consumer-friendly file |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Location of information | Displayed prominently on a publicly- available website and in a prominent manner that clearly identifies the hospital location with which the information is associated. | Displayed prominently on a publicly- available website and in a prominent manner that clearly identifies the hospital location with which the information is associated. |
| Access to information | Must be free of charge and may not require a log-in or password, other barriers, and/or the submission of any personal identifying information (PII). | Must be free of charge and may not require a log-in or password, other barriers, and/or the submission of any personal identifying information (PII). |
| Search capability | Digitally searchable | Searchable by service description, billing code, and payer |
| Updates | Annually – with date of last update clearly indicated | Annually – with date of last update clearly indicated |

Whether it's machine-readable or consumer-friendly, Wipfli's custom technology solution is built specifically for price transparency can help you meet deadlines and compliance regulations.

We can also help turn the mandates into opportunities for you by re-evaluating your pricing methodologies, identifying potential gaps in data or payor contacts, or by improving your customer experience. Learn more in our Price Transparency Education Hub at wipfli.com/pricetransparency.