### 2024 Health Care Affordability State Policy Snapshot

## **MINNESOTA**

CURB EXCESS PRICES IN THE SYSTEM	PREMIUM RATE REVIEW	HEALTH CARE SPENDING BENCHMARKS	HOSPITAL PRICE REGULATION	PUBLIC OPTION
IMPROVE OVERSIGHT, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY	HEALTH SPENDING OVERSIGHT ENTITIES	ALL-PAYER OR MULTI-PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE	PRICE TRANSPARENCY	MEDICAL DEBT COLLECTION REGULATIONS
ADDRESS CONSOLIDATION AND PROMOTE COMPETITION	CONSOLIDATION ASSESSMENT AND AUTHORIZATION	BALANCE BILL PROTECTIONS	FACILITY FEE LIMITS	ANTI- COMPETITIVE CONTRACT PROVISIONS
MAKE OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS AFFORDABLE	REDUCED COST-SHARING: PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	REDUCED COST-SHARING: HIGH VALUE SERVICES	MEDICAL DEBT PREVENTION	EXPANDED COVERAGE

State Has Active Legislation

State Does Not Have Active Legislation

The Health Care Value Hub ("the Hub") is proud to launch the 2024 Health Care Affordability Policy Snapshot ("Affordability Snapshot") which replaces the annual Healthcare Affordability Scorecard ("Scorecard"). The Affordability Snapshot provides legislators, consumer advocates, regulators and other stakeholders a tool to compare their state's health policies across other states.

The categories examined in this resource explore a variety of policy options that have previously appeared in the Scorecard, as well additional policies that impact health care affordability. Policies were selected based on whether they have the potential to impact health care affordability or access to health care at the state level, whether a reputable source was available for review, and whether evidence was current within the past ten years.

Policies were examined for whether they were active, implemented to a limited degree, or not active as of July 1, 2024. Sources for this information can be found in the downloadable Data and Source Document available on the <a href="Dashboard">Dashboard</a> page.

The Hub offers both online and hands-on support, with a staff dedicated to monitoring, translating, and disseminating evidence and connecting advocates, researchers, and policymakers to build communities and galvanize action around creating a patient-centered, high-value healthcare system. As a research-based organization, the Hub takes a comprehensive approach to improving affordability through policy analysis, translation, visualization, and collaborative engagement. We encourage advocates, legislators, and other stakeholders to share our findings to improve consumer health care affordability across the states.

## Curb Excess Prices in the System

#### **Premium Rate Review**

States can control excessive health insurance premium increases through premium rate review, where state insurance regulators scrutinize proposed rate hikes for the upcoming year to ensure that the increases are based on accurate data and realistic projections of health care costs and utilization. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) set standards for these efforts, and states meeting these standards are recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as having an effective rate review process. States may also establish the authority to approve or deny rate increases and incorporate affordability criteria into their evaluations. This section examines whether a state has an effective rate review program, as defined by CMS, the power to approve or deny rate increases, and if affordability criteria are integrated into the rate review process.

### **Health Care Spending Benchmarks**

Health spending benchmarks aim to limit annual health care spending growth by establishing a maximum limit, or "benchmark." Benchmarks may examine overall spending or spending for specific hospitals or insurers. If the benchmark is surpassed, the overseeing state entity will often collaborate with providers to curtail spending, and some states authorize the entity to mandate performance improvement plans or impose penalties. This section examines whether a state has established a benchmark, and if so, whether the state has statutory authority to enforce the benchmark.

### **Hospital Price Regulation**

This section assesses state efforts to reduce hospital service costs through reference-based pricing, global budgets, or a comparable program that regulates hospital pricing. Unlike reference-based benefits, which set a maximum allowed benefit for specified drugs or services, reference-based pricing establishes set service costs based on a predetermined reference rate. As of publication, each state that has implemented this model has set reimbursement as a multiple of the Medicare reimbursement rate.

Similarly, global budgeting involves setting a fixed prospective payment for a specified range of services over a defined period, rather than being paid for each service. By establishing a limit on annual spending, this model shifts the financial responsibility to providers and payers and encourages managing service delivery within the set budget. Some states have established state-specific insurance models which mirror select aspects of these strategies, which are also highlighted under "alternative hospital price regulation strategies."

### **Public Option**

A Public Option is a state-managed health insurance model designed to enhance competition and control costs through negotiated rates. States possess a degree of flexibility in designing these coverage options, resulting in variations in cost-containment measures and provisions related to network adequacy and reimbursement. This section highlights states that have an active Public Option and those with provider participation mandates to ensure consistent access to in-network providers.

Policy	Status as of July 1, 2024		Summary	
Premium Rate Review		Has an effective rate review process.	Minnesota has the authority to approve or deny proposed premium rate increases in the individual, small, and large group markets. The state also has the authority to hold public hearings to solicit	
		Has the authority to modify or reject premium rate increases.	stakeholder engagement in the process.	
	$\otimes$	Does not incorporate affordability criteria into premium rate review.		
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Health Care Spending	$\otimes$	Does not have health care spending benchmark for providers and/or insurers.*	In 2023, Minnesota considered legislation that would have created a health care affordability board with authority to set health care spending targets for health care entities in the state and fine hospitals and insurance companies for growth that went beyond the spending targets created by the board.	
	$\otimes$	Does not have a spending benchmark, with or without an enforcement mechanism.*	Following opposition from providers, the affordability board was replaced by a center within the Department of Health that analyzes escalating costs, but does not have the power to fine or penalize hospitals or insurers.	
	$\otimes$	Has not implemented hospital reference-based pricing or rate-setting.		
Hospital Price Regulation	$\otimes$	Has not implemented hospital global budgets.		
	$\otimes$	Has not implemented alternative hospital price regulation strategies.		
Public Option	$\otimes$	Does not have an active Public Option.	Minnesota is the latest state to pass legislation to develop a Public Option. SB 2995, enacted in 2023, initiated several studies to shape the program's design. Although details are still being finalized, early	
	$\otimes$	Does not offer a state-wide Public Option, with or without a provider participation mandate.	reports indicate that reimbursement rates may match or fall below Medicare rates. Coverage is expected to begin in January 2027. Other details, including whether the state will include a provider participation mandate, have not been finalized.	









# Improve Oversight, Accountability, and Transparency

### **Health Spending Oversight Entities**

Health Spending Oversight Entities monitor and track health care spending systematically, offering data and research support to ensure efficient resource use. While many states set population health priorities, few have established oversight entities with enforcement powers. This section examines whether a state has a health spending oversight entity reviewing primary care, hospital, or prescription drug spending, and if upper payment limits for prescription drugs have been implemented.

### All-Payer or Multi-Payer Claims Database

All-payer claims databases (APCDs) compile diverse health care data, that may include health, dental, and pharmacy claims from private insurers, state employee health programs, Medicare, and Medicaid. In instances where a database includes only some of these payers, it is referred to as a multi-payer claims database. Typically created through legislation, APCDs are often subject to state oversight and regulation. However, some claims databases have been voluntarily developed by independent entities, limiting oversight.

This section examines whether a state has an active all-payer or multi-payer claims database, if the database is facilitated and managed by the state or by third-party entities, if the data is free and accessible without institutional review board approval, and if the database is required to capture race and ethnicity demographic information.

### **Price Transparency**

This section evaluates state efforts to provide access to health care price data through a publicly available and easily accessible tool. To be credited, the tool must show negotiated prices for various services and be accessible without fees, IRB approval, or legislative restrictions. Additionally, this section reviews whether a state requires prescription drug price data to be reported to a state entity and if a state has another form of price transparency regulation.

### **Medical Debt Collection Regulations**

This section examines how a state regulates providers' ability to collect medical debt once it has been incurred. It reviews whether a state: prohibits providers from sending debts to collections while a patient is actively pursuing efforts to address the bill (e.g., appealing to insurance, applying for financial assistance, negotiating the bill, in a payment plan); prohibits spouses or other persons from being held liable for another adult's debt; limits collections' ability to garnish wages; prohibits collections from initiating home foreclosure; prohibits collections from initiating actions that would lead to an individual's arrest due to medical debt; prohibits collections from seizing a bank account.

Policy	Statu	us as of July 1, 2024	Summary
Health Spending Oversight Entity	•	Has a Prescription Drug Affordability Board reporting on prescription drug prices.  Enforces prescription drug prices through Upper Payment	Minnesota's Prescription Drug Affordability Board has the authority to review the affordability of certain drugs and establish upper payment limits. An upper payment limit will reference the federally negotiated Medicare maximum fair price for any drug with a Medicare maximum fair price.
		Limits.	Minnesota's Department of Health, Health Economics Program reports on hospital spending.
		Monitors and reports on hospital spending.	In 2023, Minnesota passed SF 2995 requiring a report on primary care spending by February 2024 and establish a Center for Health Care Affordability that may consider establishing quality and primary care
		Monitors and reports on primary care spending.	spending standards.
		Has a(n) all-payer or multi-payer claims database.	APCD represents 85% of the Minnesota population.
All-Payer or Multi-Payer Claims Database		Database is operated by the state.	
		Database does not include access restrictions.	
	$\otimes$	Database is not required to capture demographic information.	
Price Transparency	$\otimes$	Does not have a price transparency tool.*	Drug manufacturers must submit data to the Commissioner of Health for drug price increases above a
		Has a Prescription Drug price transparency reporting requirement.	threshold and for new market entrances above the Medicare part D specialty-tier threshold. The Commissioner must share the reported information on its website.  Minnesota requires other outpatient providers, such as outpatient surgical centers, large imaging and
		Has other price transparency regulation.	laboratory service providers, and large dental service providers to publish their negotiated prices, gross charges, and discounted prices for self-pay patients.
Medical Debt Collection Regulations		Prohibits providers from sending debts to collections while patient is actively pursuing means to pay the bill.	Minnesota has wage garnishment protections that go beyond federal law, with additional safeguards
	$\otimes$	Does not prohibit other persons being held liable for another adult's medical debt.	to protect patients' wages from being garnished for medical debt.
	$\otimes$	Does not prohibit collections from initiating home lien or foreclosure due to medical debt.	
		Exceeds federal wage garnishment protections.	
	$\otimes$	Does not prohibit actions that would lead to an individual's arrest due to medical debt.	
	$\otimes$	Does not prohibit collections from initiating bank account seizure due to medical debt.	





State Has Active Policy or Program O Policy or Program Partially Implemented



## Address Consolidation and Promote Competition

#### **Consolidation Assessment and Authorization**

This section examines whether relevant parties are required by law or statute to notify the state of hospital consolidation transactions beyond the federal requirements, and whether the state has the authority to review these transactions; to approve, reject, or modify conditions of the transaction; and if consumer affordability or price growth are included in the review criteria

#### **Balance Bill Protections**

The federal No Surprises Act (NSA) protects patients from balance bills, which are unexpected costs from out-of-network providers. Under the federal legislation, patients receiving emergency care or who are unknowingly treated by out-of-network providers during an in-network procedure are only required to pay the innetwork cost-sharing amount for services provided. Effective January 1, 2022, the No Surprises Act applies to most health plans but not all care sites and services. States can legislate additional protections for balance bills not covered under the NSA, such as for ground ambulances, or services provided at urgent care locations, hospice facilities, and birthing centers.

### **Facility Fee Limits**

Facility fees are charges for services provided in outpatient and physician office settings that hospitals own. These fees increase the out-of-pocket costs for care and are becoming increasingly more common as the rate of health system consolidation has accelerated. This section explores whether a state prohibits facility fees under certain circumstances, if they have imposed regulations to protect consumers against out-of-pocket costs from facility fees, and if they require hospitals to report facility fee data.

### **Anti-Competitive Contract Provisions**

Anti-competitive contracting is a pattern of contracting between health care providers and insurers where one party gains unfair advantages over potential competitors. States can enact regulations that limit dominant health systems from abusing their market power in ways that increase prices. This section evaluates whether states prohibit four types of anti-competitive contracting practices in the health system:

- Most Favored Nation Clauses: Health systems agree not to offer lower prices to competing insurers, preventing them from offering the same service at a lower price. These provisions may allow insurers and providers to collude to raise prices.
- All-or-Nothing Clauses: Health systems require plans to contract with all providers in their system or none of them, even if those providers are low-value or high-cost.
- Non-Compete Clauses: Doctors are prohibited from working at competing hospitals within a certain distance for a certain period of time.
- Anti-Tiering or Anti-Steering Clauses: Insurers must place favored providers in higher tiers regardless of cost or quality (anti-tiering) and restrict directing patients to higher value care from competitors (anti-steering).

Policy	Status as of July 1, 2024		Summary	
Consolidation Assessment & Authorization	⊗ E	Requires certain healthcare providers to notify the state of consolidation transactions.  Does not have authority to approve, set conditions, or disapprove consolidation transactions.  Includes consumer affordability and/or price growth in review criteria or approval conditions.	Minnesota requires the Attorney General be notified of nonprofit intent to dissolve, merge, consolidate, or convert, or to transfer all or substantially all of their assets, however the state does not have approval authority. The State Commissioner of Health must also be notified of health care entity transactions, and reports findings to the AG including the anticipated impact on equitable access to or the cost and quality of health care services, and can develop recommendations for the legislature on improvements to the law based on its findings.	
Balance Bill Protections	© g	Does not prohibit balance billing for out-of-network ground ambulance services.  Does not prohibit balance billing for out-of-network services at specific facilities not included in the NSA.		
Facility Fee Limits	⊗ a ⊗ c	Does not prohibit facility fees for specified procedures and/or care settings.*  Does not have codified protections against out-of-pocket costs from facility fees.*  Does not require hospitals to report facility fee data.*		
Anti- Competitive Contract Provisions	⊗ N	Law restricts Most Favored Nation contract provisions.  No law restricting all-or-nothing contract provisions.  No law restricting anti-tiering or anti-steering contract provisions.  Non-competes generally unenforceable or prohibited.	Minnesota bans Most Favored Nation clauses in contracts between insurers and healthcare providers. The law prohibits provisions that guarantee one carrier the most favorable prices or allow insurers to terminate or renegotiate contracts if a provider offers lower rates to other insurers. In 2023, Minnesota also became the fourth state to implement a blanket ban on noncompete agreements. The ban is not retroactive, and may allow noncompetes related to the sale or dissolution of a business.	











## Make Out-of-Pocket Costs Affordable

### **Reduced Cost Sharing: Prescription Drugs**

This section examines whether states have passed legislation reduce the amount a consumer pays out-of-pocket for select prescriptions drugs including insulin, epinephrine, oral oncology medications and asthma inhalers. This section also examines state-level legislation prohibiting copay accumulator programs, which are payer strategies that limit the impact of manufacturer cost-sharing assistance programs on consumer out-of-pocket costs.

### Reduced Cost-Sharing: High Value Services

This section provides an overview of state efforts aimed at reducing consumer cost burdens for high-value services. Specifically, it identifies states which have enacted legislation mandating coverage without cost-sharing for: primary care services recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF); various cancer screening and diagnostic services; and annual mental health exams. It also evaluates state efforts to expand access to affordable maternal and reproductive health care by highlighting the states that mandate private insurers cover in-vitro fertilization, fertility preservation, doula services and abortion care. The section concludes with a review of whether a state has incorporated equity-focused initiatives in their state-regulated insurance design.

#### **Medical Debt Prevention**

This section reviews state laws aimed at preventing medical debt, including mandates for hospitals and health care providers to offer financial assistance policies, screen patients for insurance and charity care eligibility, and inform patients of charity care policies before collecting payment. It also assesses whether states have extended Medicaid benefits retroactively for 90 days; expanded general presumptive eligibility for Medicaid to all adults; prohibited short-term, limited duration health plans; and if the state has established annual reporting requirements on community benefit spending.

### **Expanded Coverage**

This section evaluates policies aimed at expanding access to and improving the affordability of health insurance, including whether a state has expanded Medicaid eligibility to adults with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL); authorized 12-month continuous Medicaid eligibility for all adults; extended postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months following delivery: established a Basic Health Plan; initiated a program providing state-funded premium subsidies for residents ineligible for Medicaid; explicitly authorizes coverage for gender-affirming care under Medicaid; has authorized the provision of Medicaid coverage to individuals transitioning from incarceration; and if the state has extended Medicaid coverage to include dental, hearing, and vision benefits, including eye exams and glasses, beyond what is deemed medically necessary following injury or surgery. Beyond these policy options, this section also reviews state efforts to extend coverage to children, pregnant residents, and non-pregnant adults regardless of immigration status. This includes waiving the five-year required waiting period for immigrant children and legally residing pregnant residents (the "five-year bar"); offering alternative coverage options regardless of citizenship status; and opting into the From-Conception-to-End-of-Pregnancy (FCEP) option under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), previously known as the CHIP Unborn Child option.

Policy	Statu	us as of July 1, 2024	Summary
Reduced Cost-Sharing: Prescription Drugs	$\otimes$	Does not prohibit copay accumulator programs.	Minnesota's Insulin Safety Net and Continuing Need programs limit out-of-pocket costs for prescription insulin for uninsured and underinsured residents. Starting in January 2025, cost-shafor a 30-day supply of insulin and related medical supplies will be capped at \$25 and \$50, respe Also beginning January 2025, Minnesota will limit cost-sharing for asthma inhalers and epinephric
		Caps the price of insulin or diabetes supplies.	
	8	Does not cap the price of other prescription drugs or medical devices.	auto-injectors at \$25 per one-month supply per prescription. The total cost-sharing for all related medical supplies used to treat asthma and allergies treated with epinephrine will be capped at \$50 per month, regardless of the number of chronic diseases treated.
Reduced Cost-Sharing: High Value Services		Mandates private insurers cover USPSTF recommended preventive services without cost-sharing.	Minnesota's Medicaid program covers doula services for enrollees. In May 2024, the state passed legislation requiring all private insurers to cover abortions and related services, while also codifying
	$\otimes$	Does not waive or reduce cost-sharing for an annual mental health wellness exam in private health plans.	Medicaid coverage for these services.
		Provides coverage and/or waives or reduces cost-sharing for select maternal and reproductive health services.	Individual and group health benefit plans in Minnesota must also cover certain cancer screenings without cost-sharing, including preventive mammograms, diagnostic testing after a mammogram, services rated "A" or "B" by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, and screenings supported by the
		Mandates coverage for some cancer screening services without cost-sharing.	Health Resources and Services Administration. Additionally, the Minnesota State Employee Group Insurance plan operates the Advantage Value for Diabetes program, which provides discounted
		Insurance design includes cost-saving measures to mitigate health disparities.	medical services and treatments for diabetes to enrollees, including office visits, eye exams, lab tests, insulin pumps, and medications for diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol, and depression.
Medical Debt Prevention	$\otimes$	Does not mandate hospitals and other health care providers provide free or discounted care for low-income patients.	Minnesota doesn't require hospitals to offer charity care. However, all nonprofit hospitals in the state are reported to have an agreement with the state Attorney General pledging to adhere to "certain patient protections related to financial assistance and medical debt." STLD health plans aren't
		Mandates health care providers screen patients for insurance eligibility or charity care.	explicitly banned in the state, but strict regulations have effectively removed them from the market.
		Mandates health care providers notify patients of charity care options before collecting payment.	
		Retroactively extends Medicaid benefits ninety days prior to application date for all enrollees.	
	$\otimes$	Has not authorized all qualified entities to provide presumptive eligibility for all adults in Medicaid.*	
		Has prohibited or effectively eliminated short-term, limited duration health plans.	
		Requires transparency in spending for community benefit programs.	











