

Paying Till it Hurts



Colonoscopy

AVG. U.S. PRICE

\$1,185

SWITZERLAND

\$655



Hip replacement

AVG. U.S. PRICE

\$40,364

SPAIN

\$7,731



Lipitor

AVG. U.S. PRICE

\$124

NEW ZEALAND

\$6

Colonoscopy: Location, Location, Location



NY Colonoscopies

- Deirdre Yapalater
 - Facility Fee -- \$2910
 - Anesthesia -- \$2400
 - Gastroenterologist – \$1075
 - TOTAL: \$6385
 - PAID: \$3965
-
- Maureen O'Rourke
 - At Hospital: \$9142.84
 - In Office: \$5322.76

Transparency -- Huge Price Variation



The cost of a colonoscopy in the United States varies widely, from place to place, and even within a city. The map shows the highest amount paid for a colonoscopy in metropolitan areas. based on an analysis by Healthcare Blue Book.



Renee's charges

- Statement after delivery without any discounts; not an official bill:
- Hospital charges -- \$20,257
- Obstetrician -- \$4,020
- Anesthesiologist-- \$3,278
- Drugs -- \$1,125
- Bills for prenatal care:
 - Emergency visit -- \$1,600
 - Genetic testing -- \$1,500
 - Ultrasound -- \$1,191
 - Radiology-- \$520
 - Hematologist -- \$346

Paid for Childbirth

Average 2012 Amount Paid for Childbirth

	CONVENTIONAL DELIVERY	CAESAREAN
United States	\$9,775	\$15,041
Switzerland	4,039	5,186
France	3,541	6,441
Chile	2,992	3,378
Netherlands	2,669	5,328
Britain	2,641	4,435
South Africa	2,035	3,449

Note: Amounts paid are the actual payments agreed to by insurance companies or other payers for services, and are lower than billed charges. Amounts shown include routine prenatal, delivery and postpartum obstetric care. Some care provided by practitioners other than the obstetrician – like ultrasounds performed by a radiologist or blood testing by a lab – are not included in this tally.

Total Hip (IN BELGIUM) \$13,000



HOSPITAL IN BELGIUM



Prescription Medicine

The Soaring Cost of a Simple Breath



YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Has buying a prescription drug strained your budget or have you used a medicine more sparingly than prescribed because of cost? Tell us which drug was involved.

Robin Levi's two daughters both have asthma, but they are able to control it thanks to good insurance coverage. Some students Ms. Levi tutors also suffer from asthma but lack the same insurance and medical care. *See Patrick Farrell/The New York Times, photo by Max Whittaker for The New York Times*

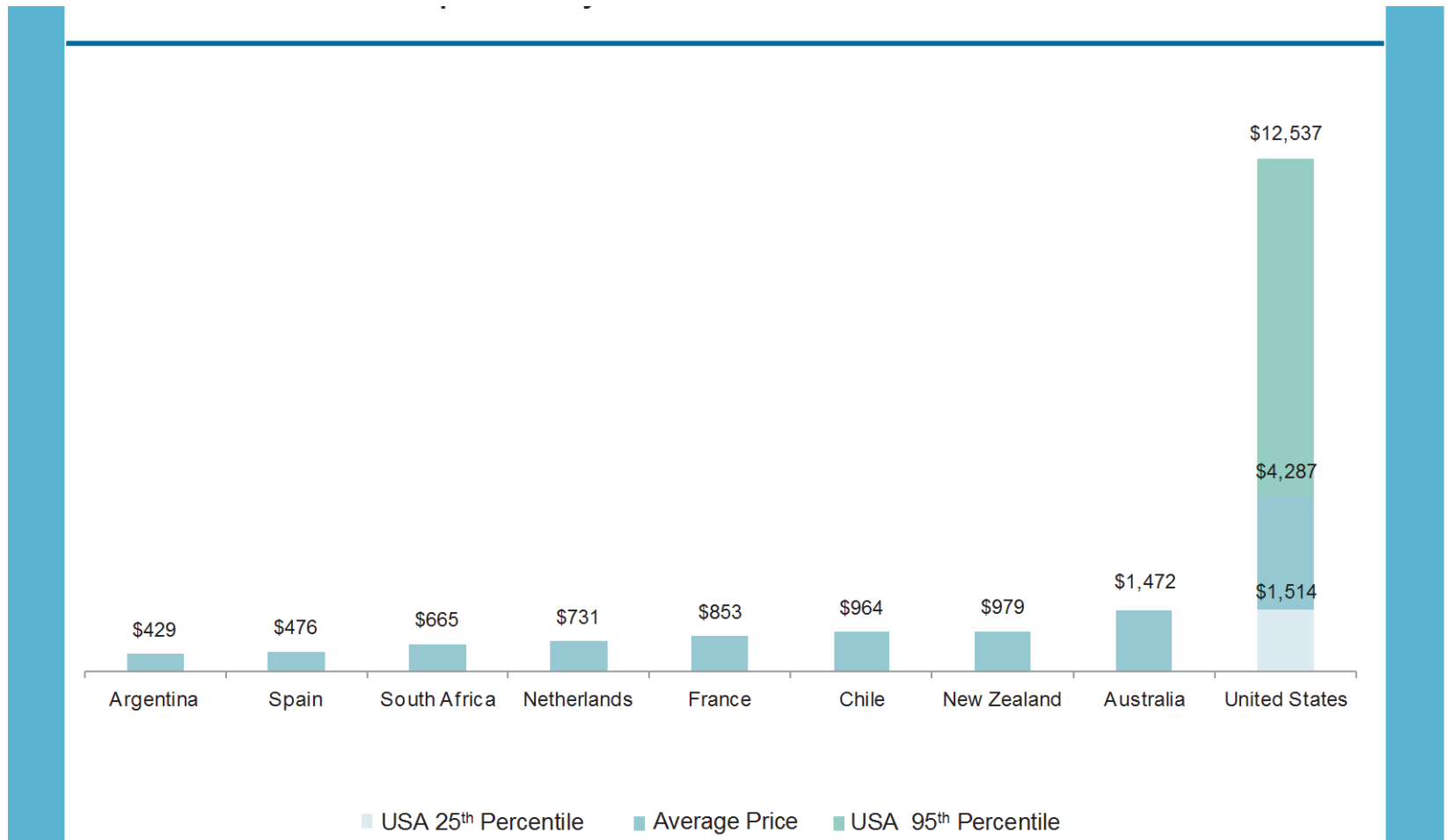
Ben Bellar's Stitches



CPMC Chargemaster Prices

Blood Gas Analysis, including O2 saturation	82805	
Thyroid Stimulating Hormone	84443	186.00
Troponin, Quantitative	84484	150.00
Complete Blood Count, with differential WBC, automated	85025	85.00
Complete Blood Count, automated	85027	100.00
Prothrombin Time	85610	50.00
Partial Thromboplastin Time	85730	75.00
Radiology Services (CPT Codes 70010-79999)	2013 CPT Code	
CT Scan, Head or Brain, without contrast	70450	2,566.00
X-Ray, Chest, two views	71020	450.00
X-Ray, Lumbo Sacral, four views	72110	800.00
CT Scan, Pelvis, with contrast	72193	3,927.00
CT Scan, Abdomen, with contrast	74160	4,495.00
Ultrasound, Abdomen, Complete	76700	1,105.00
Ultrasound, OB, 14 weeks or more, single fetus, transabdominal	76805	1,101.00
Screening Mammography Digital (Bilateral)	G0202	285.00
Medicine Services (CPT Codes 90281-99607)	2013 CPT	
Electrocardiogram 12 Lead Tracing Only	93005	297.00
Echocardiography, complete	93307	
Inhalation Treatment, pressurized or nonpressurized	94640	318.00
Surgery Services (CPT Codes 10021-69990)	2013 CPT Code	Average Charge Amount
Arthroscopy, Knee, with meniscectomy (medial or lateral)	29881	16,698.23
Arthroscopy, Shoulder, with partial acromioplasty	29826	
Carpal Tunnel Surgery	64721	10,907.69
Cataract Removal with Insertion of Intraocular Lens, 1 Stage	66984	
Colonoscopy, diagnostic	45378	

Cost of a hospital day



Mohs Surgery



MD compensation

\$920,555

Orthopedic surgery: hip and joint

\$820,569

Orthopedic surgery: spine

\$707,252

Surgery: neurological

\$583,837

Cardiology: invasive-interventional

\$516,081

Dermatology: Mohs surgery

\$488,200

Gastroenterology

\$425,006

Hematology/Oncology

\$378,009

Anesthesiology

\$345,726

Ophthalmology

\$300,000

Obstetrics/Gynecology: General

\$264,863

Neurology

\$220,000

Internal Medicine: General

\$166,754

Pediatrics: child development

Source: Medical Group Management Association

Catherine Hayley's Yearly Supplies

CATHERINE HAYLEY'S COST

\$4,224

COST WITH NO INSURANCE

\$26,470

Testing Blood Sugar



Lancets



Test strips

Because she has not yet made some of the 2014 purchases, the old version of the pump is shown here and the total cost does not include an additional transmitter and disposable sensors.

Delivering Insulin

Insulin



Insulin pump reservoir



AAA battery



Insulin pump infusion set

Insulin pump

Costs Ms. Hayley \$2,500. Her insurance allows her to upgrade every four years.

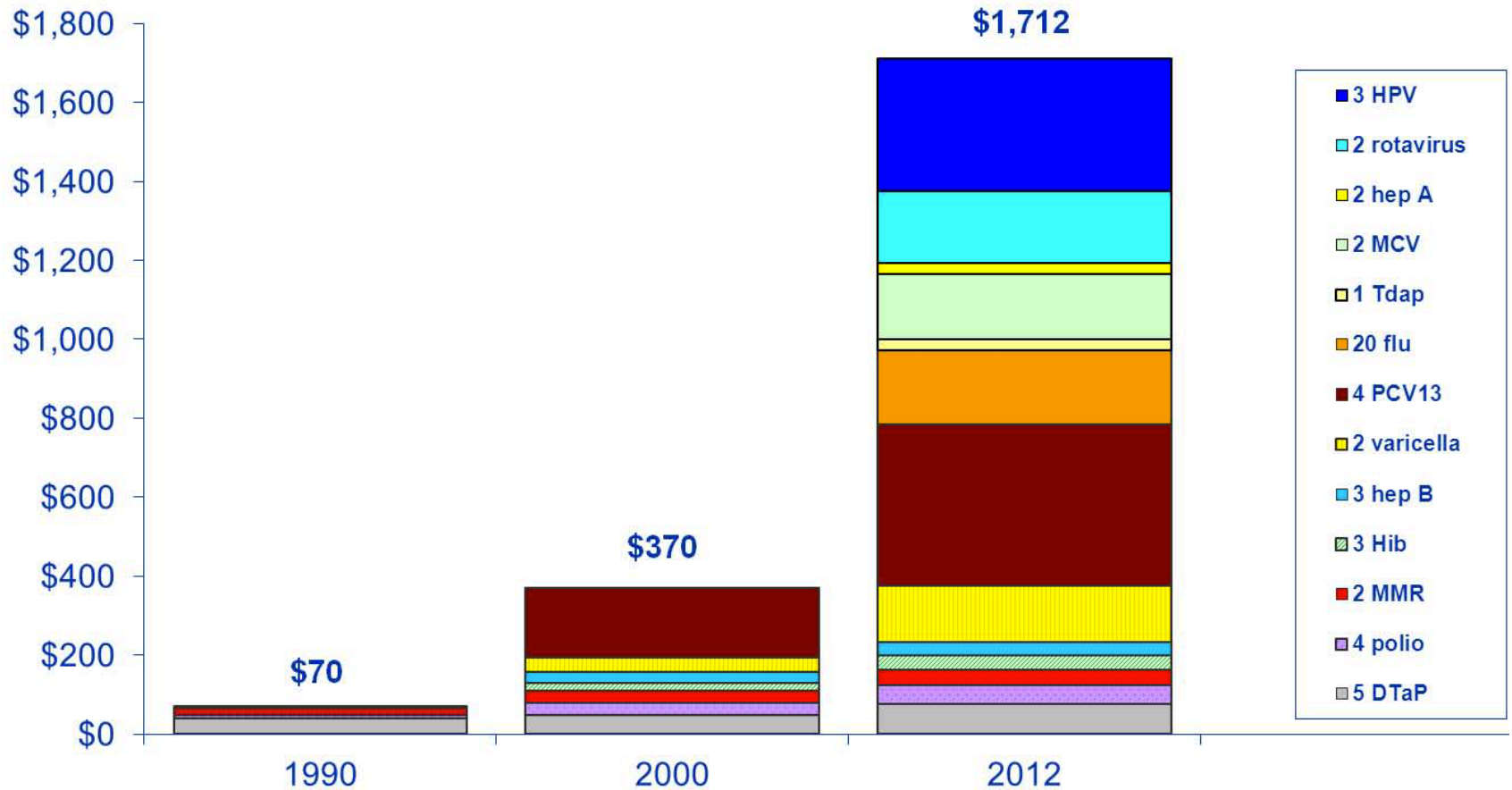


In Case of Emergency

Emergency glucagon kit



Price of required childhood vaccines



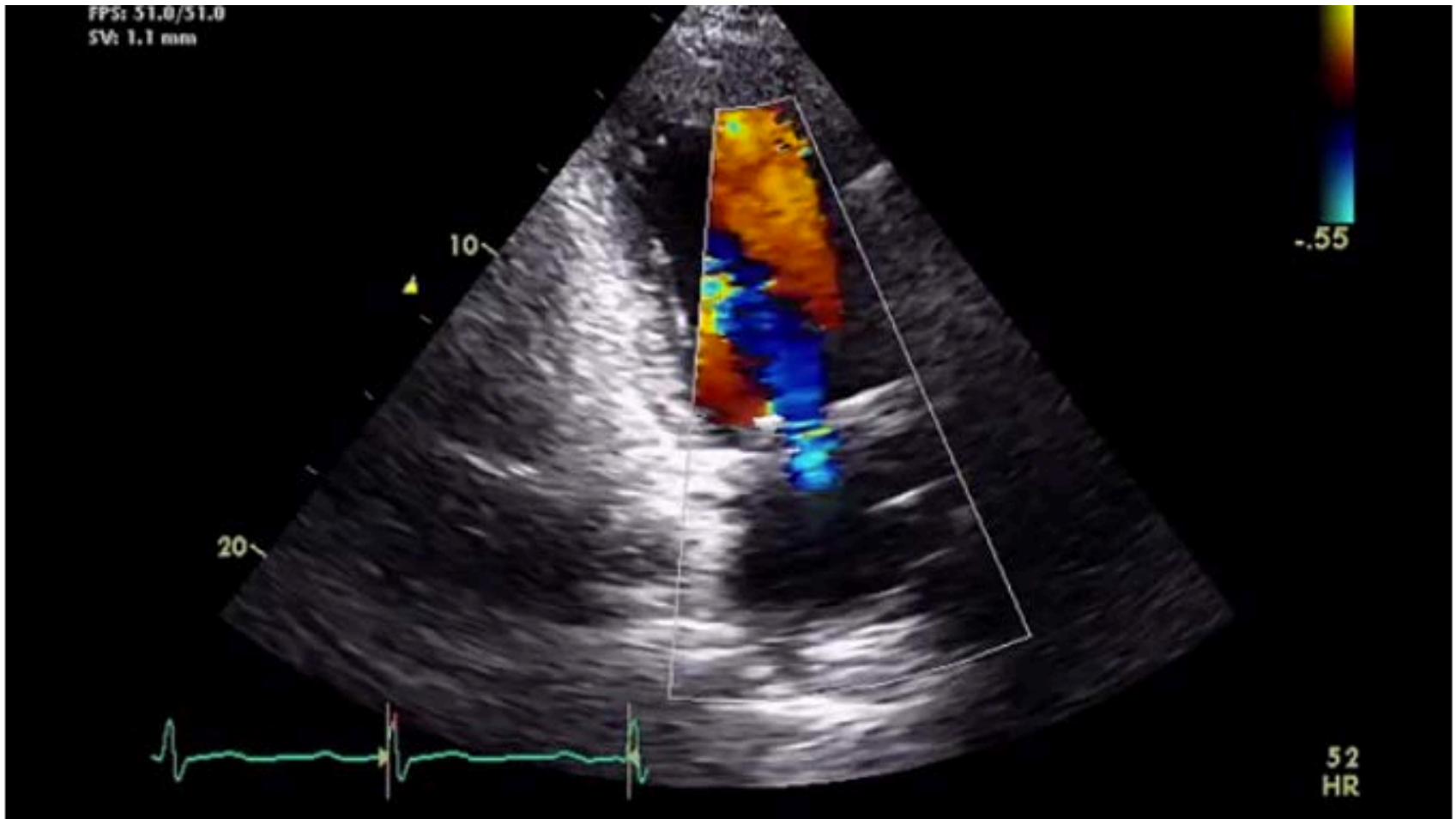
Many Surprise Charges The \$117,000 Assistant Surgeon



The Bill

		(Detach and remit with payment)		Reflects transactions posted through 6/13/2014 for 22250			
Date	Description	Check #	Fee	Units	Insurance	Patient	
	PETER DRIER(25400)/HARRISON MU MD MD/044828						
	Location: LENOX HILL HOSPITAL						
12/23/2013	Arthrodesis, anterior interbody, including disc space preparation, discectomy, osteophyctomy and decompression of spinal cord and/or nerve roots; cervical below C2	\$60,000.00		1.00	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	
12/23/2013	Arthrodesis, anterior interbody, including disc space preparation, discectomy, osteophyctomy and decompression of spinal cord and/or nerve roots; cervical below C2, each additional interspace (List separately in addition to code for separate procedure)	\$7,060.20		1.00	\$7,060.20	\$0.00	
12/23/2013	Application of intervertebral biomechanical device(s) (eg, synthetic cage(s), threaded bone dowel(s), methylmethacrylate) to vertebral defect or interspace	\$16,000.00		2.00	\$32,000.00	\$0.00	
12/23/2013	Anterior instrumentation; 2 to 3 vertebral segments	\$17,802.00		1.00	\$17,802.00	\$0.00	
05/07/2014	Transfer from Insurance				-\$116,862.20	\$116,862.20	
	PAYMENT WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO PATIENT PLEASE FOWARD PAYMENT						
					\$0.00	\$116,862.20	

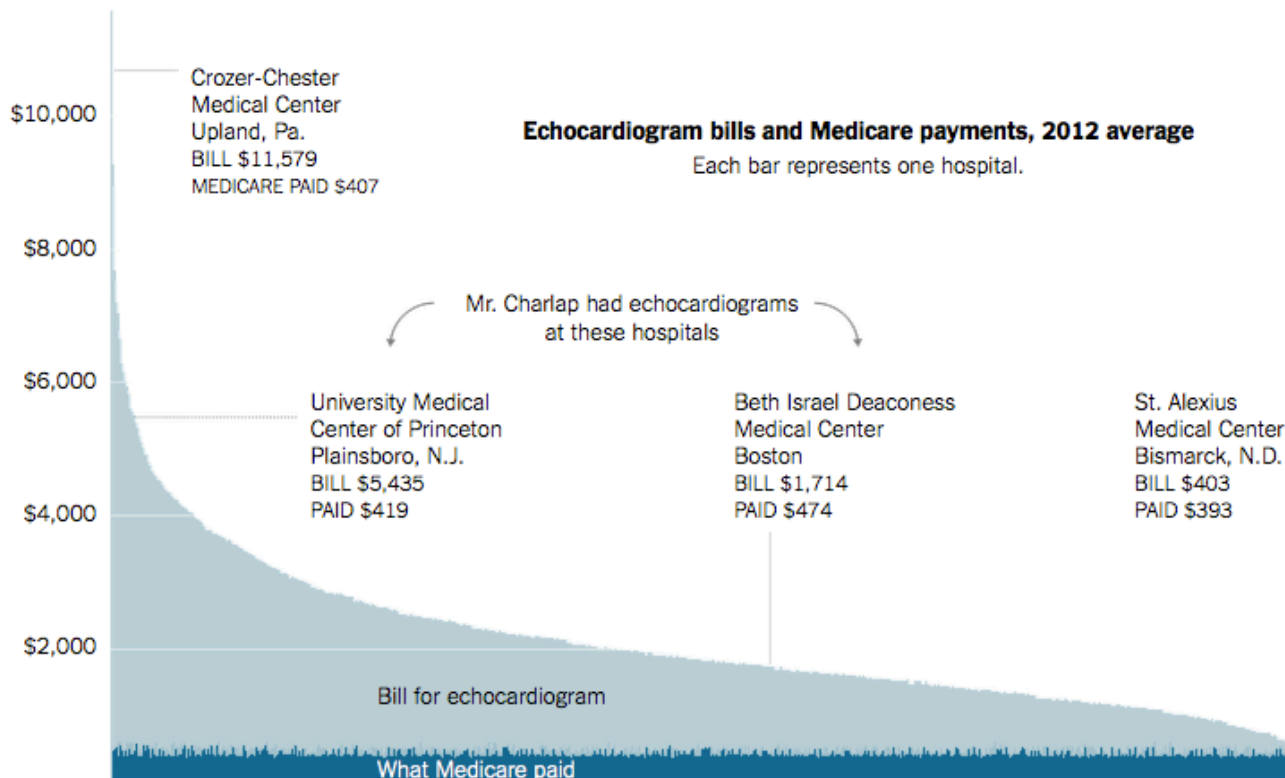
Len Charlap's Echocardiograms worth \$1200 or \$5400?



How much is that ECHO?

High Price for Simple Technology

The price tag for an echocardiogram in the United States can be several thousand dollars, but the actual value, according to Medicare, is several hundred.



Find the Whole Series Here

www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/health/paying-till-it-hurts.html

Join Our New Facebook Group

The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook group page. At the top, the group name "Paying Till It Hurts" is displayed in a search bar. To the right of the search bar, the user's name "Elisabeth" and navigation links "Home" and "Find Friends" are visible. Below the search bar, the profile picture of Elisabeth Rosenthal is shown, along with her name and "Edit Profile" link. The main content area features a large image of a person using an inhaler, with the New York Times logo in the top left corner. Below the image, there are tabs for "Paying Till It Hurts", "Members", "Events", "Photos", and "Files". To the right of these tabs are buttons for "Notifications", "Create Group", and a settings gear icon. Below the tabs, there is a "Write Post" section with options to "Write Post", "Add Photo / Video", "Ask Question", and "Add File". The text "Write something..." is present in this section. At the bottom, there is a blue button with an information icon and the text "Add information about your group." with a close button (X).

Paying Till It Hurts Home Find Friends

Elisabeth Rosenthal
Edit Profile

Home Feed
Messages 8
Events
Photos
Browse
Elisabeth Rosenthal
Add Friends 20+

Paying Till It Hurts Members Events Photos Files Notifications

Write something...

Add information about your group.

ABOUT 596 members

Open Group

The New York Times' Paying Till it Hurts Facebook Group is a forum for conversation analysis and... [See More](#)

596 members (355 new) · Invite by Email