

DELAWARE

ADDRESS CONSOLIDATION AND PROMOTE COMPETITION	Consolidation Oversight	Facility Fee Limits	Anti-Competitive Contract Provisions		
MEDICAL DEBT PREVENTION	Balance Billing and Short-Term Insurance	Charity Care and Community Benefit	Reducing Financial Consequences		
IMPROVE OVERSIGHT, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY	Health Care Spending Oversight	Prescription Drug Affordability Board	All-Payer Claims Database	Price Transparency	
MEDICAID SERVICES AND IMMIGRANT COVERAGE	Medicaid Administration	Medicaid Covered Services	Medicaid Eligibility	Immigrant Coverage	
CURB EXCESS COSTS IN THE SYSTEM	Premium Rate Review	Hospital Price Regulation	Affordable Coverage	Prescription Drug Pricing	Medicaid Costs
REDUCE COST-SHARING FOR PATIENTS	Prescription Drugs	Behavioral Health	Preventive Care	Maternal and Reproductive Health Care	Cancer Screening and Testing Services

The Health Care Value Hub (“the Hub”) is proud to launch the 2025 Health Care Affordability Policy Snapshot (“Affordability Snapshot”). The Affordability Snapshot provides legislators, consumer advocates, regulators and other interested parties 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 impact health care affordability. Policies were examined for whether they were active, implemented to a limited degree, or not active as of June 1, 2025. Sources for this information can be found in the downloadable [Data and Source Document](#) available on the [Dashboard](#) page. Definitions and descriptions for each policy category can be found in the Glossary.

The Hub offers online and hands-on support with staff dedicated to understanding health care policy and connecting advocates and other interested parties together to help build 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.

Address Consolidation and Promote Competition

Consolidation Oversight

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Transaction Notification Required	 Requires health systems or providers to notify the state of consolidation transactions	Delaware requires a Certificate of Public Review prior to any acquisition of a nonprofit health care facility. Certificate of Public Review applicants are required to submit a notice of intent to the Bureau of Health Planning and Resources Management at least 30 days prior to submitting an application.
Authority to Modify or Reject Consolidation Transactions	 Has authority to approve, set conditions, or disapprove consolidation transactions	The state has the authority to approve or disapprove acquisitions of nonprofit health facilities during the Certificate of Public Review process.
Affordability Criteria included in Transaction Review	 Includes consumer affordability or price growth in review criteria, approval conditions, or both	Review criteria including the anticipated effect of the proposal on the costs of and charges for health care.



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Address Consolidation and Promote Competition

Facility Fees

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Prohibits Facility Fees	 State does not prohibit providers from charging any facility fees	
Facility Fee Transparency Laws	 State does not require providers to disclose facility fees to consumers, requires off-campus outpatient departments to identify the physical location where care was provided on claims forms, or both	
Limits Cost-Sharing for Facility Fees	 The state has no laws that limit the amount a patient may be billed out-of-pocket for facility fees	



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Address Consolidation and Promote Competition

Anti-Competitive Contract Provisions

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Restricts All-or-Nothing Contract Provisions	 No law restricting All-or-Nothing contract provisions	
Restricts Anti-Tiering and Anti-Steering Contract Provisions	 No law restricting Anti-Tiering or Anti-Steering contract provisions	
Restricts Physician Noncompete Clauses	 Non-competes generally unenforceable or prohibited	Delaware bans noncompete agreements in physician employment contracts but allows provisions requiring payment of damages upon termination to be enforced.
Restricts Most-Favored Nation Contract Provisions	 No law restricting Most Favored Nation contract provisions	



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Medical Debt Prevention

Balance Billing and Short-Term Insurance

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Prohibits Balance Billing for Ground Ambulance Services	Prohibits balance billing for out-of-network ground ambulance services	Delaware has established balance bill protections extend to both public and private ground ambulance services, but do not apply to services provided by volunteer fire departments and do not cover non-emergency transport.
Prohibits Short-Term, Limited Duration Health Plans	Short-term, limited duration health plans are not prohibited or eliminated	



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Medical Debt Prevention

Charity Care and Community Benefit

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Mandated Hospital Charity Care	 State law requires hospitals to provide free or discounted care to low-income patients and sets standards for eligibility (see notes)	Delaware requires health care facilities subject to a Certificate of Public Review to provide charity care to uninsured or underinsured individuals with annual incomes at or below 350% FPL. The state defines underinsured as having medical expenses or deductibles that equal or exceed 5% of their annual income.
Hospital Charity Care Screening Requirements	 State does not require health care providers to screen patients for Medicaid, Marketplace, or charity care eligibility before collecting payment	
Hospital Charity Care Notification Requirement	 State law requires health care providers to notify patients of charity care options before collecting payment	Hospitals in Delaware are required to give uninsured patients written information about medical assistance, including eligibility, how to apply, and where to get help, both at the time of service and on billing statements.
Hospital Community Benefit Reporting Requirement	 State law requires hospitals to annually report the amount of charity care provided	Hospitals in Delaware are required to annually report charity care data to the state's Health Resources Board, including a certified log of services provided and a summary detailing total revenue, the amount and percentage of charity care and bad debt, and Medicaid revenue. This requirement applies for the duration of the facility's operation under a Certificate of Public Review.



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Medical Debt Prevention

Reducing Financial Consequences

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Mandates Waiting Prior to Collections	State law prohibits sending medical debts to collections for a prescribed period (see note)	Hospitals may not sell a patient’s debt for at least 120 days after the first bill is sent, unless they have a written agreement with the buyer that protects the patient from select collection actions. Hospitals must also give at least 30 days’ written notice before selling the debt or taking any other extraordinary collection actions.
Limits on Liens or Foreclosures due to Medical Debt	State law prohibits initiating a lien or foreclosure to collect medical debt	Delaware law fully prohibits hospitals or debt collectors from foreclosing on a patient's property to collect outstanding medical debt.
Limits Wage Garnishment due to Medical Debt	State law exceeds federal wage garnishment protections for residents with medical debt	Delaware prohibits wage garnishment, as well as garnishment of disability, workers' compensation, and unemployment benefits, to collect unpaid medical debts.
Limits on the Amount of Interest Charged to Medical Debt	State law limits interest rates on medical debt	Delaware law bars hospitals and medical debt collectors from adding any interest or late fees to patients’ medical debt.

Curb Excess Costs in the System

Premium Rate Review

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Effective Rate Review per Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)	Has an effective rate review process	
Authority to Modify or Reject Premium Rate Increases	Has the authority to modify or reject premium rate increases	Delaware has the authority to approve or deny rate filings submitted by individual health insurance carriers, group health insurance carriers, blanket health insurance carriers, Medicare supplement ("Medigap") carriers, and health service corporations.
Affordability Criteria Included in Premium Rate Review	Incorporates affordability criteria into premium rate review	Delaware has adopted affordability standards for its rate review process, developed by the Office of Value-Based Health Care Delivery based on recommendations from the Primary Care Reform Collaborative. These standards empower the state to assess whether health insurance is affordable for lower-income individuals, carrier efforts to control administrative costs, and carrier strategies to enhance the affordability of products when reviewing rate filings.



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Curb Excess Costs in the System

Hospital Price Regulation		
Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Medicare Reference-Based Pricing	State uses reference-based pricing tied to Medicare rates to regulate hospital pricing	Delaware has established a temporary reference-based pricing structure until the state develops the Diamond State Hospital Cost Review Board, which will that will be responsible for reviewing and approving annual hospital budgets starting in 2026. As an intermediary measure to address high hospital costs while the Board is established, hospitals are required to charge no more than 250% of Medicare costs to any payer for hospital services in calendar year 2025 and 2026.
Hospital Global Budgets	State has not implemented hospital global budgets	

Curb Excess Costs in the System

Affordable Coverage		
Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Public Option	✗ State does not offer an active public option insurance plan	
Public Option Includes Provider Participation Mandate	✗ State does not does not offer a public option, with or without a participation mandate	
Basic Health Plan	✗ State does not operate a Basic Health Plan	
State-Based Premium Subsidies	✗ State does not offer supplementary state-funded premium subsidies	

Curb Excess Costs in the System

Prescription Drug Pricing

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Biologic Substitution Laws: Prescriber Permission Requirements	● State does not require express authorization for biologic substitution	
Biologic Substitution Laws: Prescriber Notification Requirements	● Pharmacists are required to notify prescribers of biologic substitution	Pharmacists in Delaware are required to notify the prescribing physician of a substitution within "a reasonable time but not to exceed 10 days following dispensing [a biological product]."
Drug Purchasing Consortium	● State participates in a drug purchasing consortium (see note)	Delaware is a member of the Sovereign States Drug Consortium.
Drug Coupon Prohibitions	⊗ State does not prohibit the use of drug manufacturer coupons*	
Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) Carve Out	⊗ State Medicaid does not carve out any drug classes from their MCO benefits*	
Mandatory Generics in Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS)	● Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) programs and pharmacists are required to substitute a generic version of a drug	Delaware has policies or tools to promote mandatory generics.



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Curb Excess Costs in the System

Prescription Drug Pricing		
Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Supplemental Rebate Programs	Medicaid Pharmacy Supplemental Rebate Agreement (SRA) in place	
Drug Rebate Transparency and Reporting Requirements	Pharmacy benefit managers are required to report rebate data to the state	
Spread Pricing Restrictions	State prohibits pharmacy benefit managers from engaging in spread pricing	
Pharmacy Benefit Manager Reimbursement and Clawbacks	State prohibits PBMs from retroactively reducing reimbursement to pharmacies (“clawbacks”)	
Cost-Disclosure and Gag Clause Restrictions	State law prohibits gag clauses in pharmacy contracts	
Prohibits Copay Accumulator Programs	State prohibits copay accumulator programs	

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Curb Excess Costs in the System

Medicaid Costs

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Medical Loss Ratio Remittances (MLR) for Medicaid Managed Care Population	State requires MLR remittances for its Medicaid managed care population	
Medicaid Site Neutral Payments	State has not enacted Medicaid site neutral payment legislation*	



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Medicaid Services and Immigrant Coverage

Medicaid Administration

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Medicaid Managed Care (MCO)	State partners with MCOs to operate their Medicaid program	Most Medicaid recipients are enrolled with an MCO. Recipients who are not enrolled with an MCO are: those eligible to enroll in Medicare (dual eligible), individuals who do not reside in the community, individuals covered under HCBS waivers, non-qualified non-citizens, individuals who have military health insurance and their dependents, individuals eligible for the Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer program, and presumptively eligible pregnant women.
Medicaid Vendor — Eligibility and Enrollment	State contracts with a vendor for Medicaid enrollment or eligibility	
Integrated Medicaid-Medicare	State does not integrate Medicare-Medicaid to coordinate care for the dually eligible population	

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Medicaid Services and Immigrant Coverage

Medicaid Covered Services

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Medicaid Coverage for Fertility Services	 State Medicaid program does not cover infertility treatments or fertility preservation services	
Medicaid Coverage for Doula Services	 State Medicaid program actively reimburses for doula services	
Medicaid Coverage for Abortion Care	 State Medicaid program utilizes state-based funds to cover abortion care	
Medicaid Coverage for Transition-Related Care	 State Medicaid program explicitly covers any transition-related care for adults	
Medicaid Coverage for Hearing Aids	 State Medicaid program covers hearing aids for some, but not all, adults (see note)	Hearing aid coverage is dependent upon which MCO an individual is enrolled with.
Medicaid Coverage for Eye Exams and Glasses	 State Medicaid program covers only eye exams or eyeglasses but not both, or biannually or less frequently, or restricts coverage based on age or health condition (see notes)	Vision services are covered through Delaware's MCO. This includes one eye exam annually. Eyeglasses are available as an extra benefit at MCO's discretion.
Medicaid Coverage for Dental Services	 State Medicaid program covers some dental services for adults (see notes)	Delaware Medicaid does not offer coverage for crowns, root canals, dentures, or extractions.



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Medicaid Services and Immigrant Coverage

Medicaid Eligibility

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Medicaid Expansion	 State has expanded Medicaid eligibility to 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL)	
Retroactive Medicaid	 State retroactively extends Medicaid benefits 90 days prior to application date for all adult enrollees	Effective January 2025, all Medicaid-eligible residents are offered three months of retroactive coverage.
Adult Medicaid Continuous Eligibility	 State has not authorized 12-month continuous eligibility for non-pregnant adult Medicaid enrollees*	
12-Month Postpartum Coverage	 State has authorized 12-month postpartum Medicaid coverage	
Medicaid Available to People who are Incarcerated	 State has not authorized Medicaid coverage for justice-involved individuals while they are in a correctional setting*	
Medicaid Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) Asset Limits	 State has not expanded the asset limit for Medicaid for the Elderly and Disabled eligibility beyond \$2,000 for an individual applicant and \$3,000 for joint applicants	
Medicaid Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) Life Insurance Exemption	 Life insurance exemption limits do not exceed \$1,500	
Medicaid Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) Retirement Account Exemptions	 State exempts spouses', but not applicants', retirement savings from Medicaid eligibility determinations only	



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Medicaid Services and Immigrant Coverage

Immigrant Coverage

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
From Conception to End of Pregnancy (FCEP)	 Does not cover pregnancy-related services through the CHIP From-Conception-to-End-of-Pregnancy (FCEP) Option or post-partum coverage	
Immigrant Children without a Five-Year Bar	 State offers coverage for lawfully residing immigrant children without a five-year bar	
Pregnant Immigrants without a Five-Year Bar	 Offers coverage for lawfully residing pregnant immigrants without a five-year bar	
State-Funded Coverage for Children Regardless of Citizenship Status	 Does not offer coverage for children regardless of immigration status	
State-Funded Coverage for Adults Regardless of Citizenship Status	 Does not offer coverage for adults regardless of immigration status	



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Improve Oversight, Accountability, and Transparency

All-Payer Claims Database

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Established an All-Payer Claims Database (APCD)	 State has a(n) all-payer or multi-payer claims database	
All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) Operated by the State	 APCD is operated by the state	

Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Established Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB)	 The state has not established or passed legislation to establish a prescription drug affordability board	
Prescription Drug Upper Payment Limits	 The state has not established Upper Payment Limits for prescription drugs	



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Improve Oversight, Accountability, and Transparency

Price Transparency

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Service Cost Price Transparency Tool	 State has a public-facing price transparency tool that reports negotiated rates	
Prescription Drug Price Reporting Requirement	 Organizations are not required to report prescription drug price information to a state entity	

Health Care Spending Oversight

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Health Care Spending Benchmark	 State has established a health care spending benchmark for providers, insurance carriers, or both	Delaware's statewide cost growth benchmark was established in 2018 by executive order, starting at 3.8% in 2019 and decreasing to 3% in 2024. In 2025, the benchmark increased to 4.2%. The state measures performance against the benchmark for the state as a whole and for each insurance market including private payers, however individual hospital performance is not measured.
Authority to Enforce Health Care Spending Benchmark	 State does not have an enforcement mechanism for their health care spending benchmark(s)	
Hospital or Primary Care Spending Oversight Entity	 State monitors and reports hospital spending, primary care spending, or both	Delaware's Economic and Financial Advisory Committee and Health Care Commission, established in 2018, and the Diamond State Hospital Cost Review Board review hospital spending. The Primary Care Reform Collaborative and Office of Value-Based Health Care Delivery reviews and reports on primary care spending.



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Reduce Cost-Sharing for Patients

Reduce Cost-Sharing: Prescription Drugs

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Diabetes Medications	 State has enacted legislation to limit cost-sharing for insulin, diabetes related equipment, or both	Delaware caps the out-of-pocket cost for a 30-day supply of insulin at \$100.00, diabetes equipment at \$35.00, and waives all cost-sharing for medically necessary insulin pumps.
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Asthma Inhalers	 State has not enacted legislation limiting cost-sharing for asthma inhalers	
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Epinephrine Auto-Injectors	 State has enacted legislation to limit cost-sharing for prescription epinephrine autoinjector (s)	Delaware does not have a specific dollar amount capped for epinephrine costs, but a state law requires insurance plans to cover at least one epinephrine auto-injector formulation at the lowest cost-sharing tier.
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Specialty Drugs	 State has enacted legislation to limit cost-sharing for specialty drugs	Delaware limits the amount residents must pay for prescription drugs used to treat complex, chronic or rare medical conditions by capping cost-sharing for each 30-day specialty drug prescription at \$150.00.

Reduced Cost-Sharing: Behavioral Health

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for an Annual Behavioral Health Office Visit	 State requires private insurers to cover at least one annual mental health wellness exam without cost-sharing	Delaware requires health insurance plans to cover an annual behavioral health well check without patient cost-sharing.



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Reduce Cost-Sharing for Patients

Reduced Cost-Sharing: Preventive Care

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Waives Cost-Sharing for Preventive Services Recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)	State mandates private insurers cover USPSTF recommended preventive services without cost-sharing	

Reduced Cost-Sharing: Maternal and Reproductive Health Care

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Individual and Small Group Health Plans Required to Cover Fertility Treatment	The state requires individual and small group health plans to offer coverage for in-vitro fertilization alone or in addition to fertility preservation services	Delaware requires health insurance policies to cover standard fertility preservation and in-vitro fertilization (IVF) when medically necessary treatments may cause iatrogenic infertility.
Individual and Small Group Health Plans Required to Cover Doula Services	State does not require private health insurers to cover doula services for enrollees	
Individual and Small Group Health Plans Required to Cover Abortion Services	The state requires individual and small group health plans to cover abortion services	

Reduce Cost-Sharing for Patients

Reduced Cost-Sharing: Cancer Screening and Testing Services

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Colorectal Cancer Screenings	 State law requires insurers to cover colorectal cancer screening but allows cost-sharing	
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Follow-Up Colorectal Cancer Screening Exams	 State law requires insurers to cover follow-up colorectal cancer screening but allows cost-sharing	
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Lung Cancer Screenings	 State law does not require coverage or waive cost-sharing for lung cancer screening exams*	



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Reduce Cost-Sharing for Patients

Reduced Cost-Sharing: Cancer Screening and Testing Services

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Cervical Cancer Screenings	State law requires insurers to cover cervical cancer screening but allows cost-sharing	
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Breast Cancer Screenings	State law requires insurers to cover breast cancer screening but allows cost-sharing	
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Supplementary Breast Cancer Screenings	State law requires insurers to cover supplementary breast cancer screening but allows cost-sharing	

Reduce Cost-Sharing for Patients

Reduced Cost-Sharing: Cancer Screening and Testing Services

Policy	Status as of June 2025	Summary
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Prostate Cancer Screenings	State law requires insurers to cover prostate cancer screening with no cost-sharing	
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Ovarian Cancer Screening	State law requires insurers to cover ovarian cancer screening but allows cost-sharing	
Waives or Reduces Cost-Sharing for Biomarker Testing for Cancer	State requires coverage of biomarker testing for cancer screening but allows cost-sharing	Delaware law requires certain state-regulated health insurance policies to cover CA-125 biomarker testing for ovarian cancer monitoring after treatment, even if such services are considered experimental or investigative, but it does not mandate coverage for routine screening. Coverage may still be subject to standard cost-sharing, provider restrictions, and other plan provisions.