



benefitNEWS

## Three Major Carriers Join New Price Portal Run by Transparency Group

Aetna Inc., Humana Inc., and UnitedHealth Group are going to provide pricing and quality information to a new online service operated by the independent, non-profit Health Care Cost Institute (HCCI) starting early next year, according to AIS Publishing. Backers say it is a big leap forward in trying to make the health insurance business more transparent. By voluntarily providing the data, consumers, regulators, and stakeholders will be able to see what insurers pay for medical services, with copayments and deductibles factored in, says David Newman, executive director of HCCI. He adds that the collection will be the “densest and most specific dataset available covering more than 40 million commercially insured lives.” The new HCCI transparency tool, which is still in development, will aggregate pricing data from commercial plans, Medicare Advantage products and Medicaid offerings, if states want to play a role.

In trying to separate the new pricing portal from what is on the market today, Newman says the HCCI data will be “free to anyone, not just those insured by member plans”. “Most of the pricing information that is out there now is behind passwords,” he says. The HCCI portal will also include one-stop features beyond the initial price information. “In addition to the public information there is a second tier on the website for customers of participating insurers where you can customize your coverage by benefit design,” Newman adds. A third part of the service will be for large employers to use in explaining benefits and options for their employees. Other major insurers are expected to come onboard as well before the 2015 unveiling.

HCCI is a non-partisan, non-profit organization with an overarching goal to provide complete, accurate, unbiased information about healthcare utilization and costs to better understand the U.S. healthcare system. It was launched with seed money from Aetna, Humana, and United, and partners with universities like Dartmouth College and Yale University, along with the American Academy of Actuaries, Society of Actuaries, the Congressional Budget Office, and Med-PAC in data work.

Should you have any questions, please contact your Conner Strong & Buckelew account representative.



CONNER  
STRONG &  
BUCKLEW

INSURANCE | RISK MANAGEMENT | EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



[Click here to change your email preferences or unsubscribe from all communication.](#)