

# Introducing Care Comparison<sup>®</sup>

from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona



## The right information to make better health care decisions

Consumers are demanding more information about cost and quality related to their medical care—especially for procedures with high out-of-pocket expenses. That's why Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBSAZ) has added Care Comparison<sup>®</sup> to its suite of online cost and quality comparison tools. With Care Comparison<sup>®</sup>, BCBSAZ members can compare health care prices for local hospitals and facilities in one easy-to-use, web-based tool. Care Comparison<sup>®</sup> helps BCBSAZ members become better informed health care consumers and make the right choice when it comes to their care—and their health care dollars.

## Compare costs for common procedures

It's common for different providers to charge different fees for the same procedure. Having a clear understanding of the estimated costs for common procedures can help your customers "shop around" for the best price and better plan for their out-of-pocket expenses. It can also help reduce health care costs for employers.

This simple online tool gives your customers access to price ranges for many common health care services right down to the procedure and the provider in their area. Members can view cost information across numerous specialties including radiology, orthopedics, obstetrics, and general surgery. Common procedures include:

- Childbirth
- Knee – cartilage repair (using Arthroscopy)
- Back – MRI spine
- Head – CT scan
- Hip replacement surgery
- Hernia repair
- Cataract removal
- Tonsillectomy

## Cost and quality comparison tools

In addition to Care Comparison<sup>®</sup>, BCBSAZ also offers other online cost and quality comparison tools for members, including:

### Prescription Cost Calculator

With this helpful tool, members can calculate and compare their prescription costs across multiple pharmacies in their area. It also lets members compare costs for brand versus generic medication so they can get the best deal on prescriptions without sacrificing quality.

### Hospital Comparison Tool

Members can compare common hospital procedures based on factors such as the number of procedures performed, complication rates, average length of stay and more.



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# Care Comparison®

## Sample costs by Care Comparison® for knee replacement surgery

Facility Name	City, State	Minimum Typical Cost	Maximum Typical Cost	Number Services / year for BCBSAZ
Sample Facility 1	Phoenix, AZ	\$14,000	\$18,000	211
Sample Facility 2	Tempe, AZ	\$18,000	\$22,000	196
Sample Facility 3	Scottsdale, AZ	\$22,000	\$26,000	480

*In most cases, the Care Comparison® tool aggregates the ancillary, professional and facility charges for a procedure and then displays them as cost ranges for the specified procedure.*

## How can members use this information?

Care Comparison® helps members take the first step to become more engaged health care consumers. It is intended to educate members on the cost ranges for common procedures so that they can make an informed choice about which provider or facility to choose. Care Comparison® helps support meaningful dialogue between providers and members, including questions such as:

- What is the cost of a procedure and what factors contribute to the cost?
- Are there differences with how the provider performs the procedure compared to their peers?
- How many procedures does the provider perform each year? (Care Comparison® displays only how many procedures are performed for BCBSAZ members.)
- Does the procedure require an ancillary provider, such as an anesthesiologist, and if so, is that additional provider contracted with BCBSAZ?
- Does the health care professional have privileges at other facilities, and if so, are the fees/charges at those facilities less?
- Are there alternative procedures or treatments available that may be as effective at a lower out-of-pocket cost?

To find out more about Care Comparison®, please contact your sales representative today!



BCBSAZ Members can access Care Comparison® and other Cost and Quality Comparison tools by logging on to BlueNet<sup>SM</sup> at [azblue.com/CareComparison](http://azblue.com/CareComparison)



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