



additional resources available at www.wha.org

Public Reporting

<http://www.wicheckpoint.org>

<http://www.wipricepoint.org>

Handout Background Papers

- **CheckPoint (4/08)**
http://www.wha.org/pubArchive/special_reports/CheckPoint.pdf
Brochure: CheckPoint Measures -- Complete list of current and future measures (7/08)
<http://www.wicheckpoint.org/docs/cpmeasures7-08.pdf>
- **PricePoint (12/07)**
http://www.wha.org/pubArchive/special_reports/PricePoint.pdf
- **Community Benefits Reporting (4/06)**
http://www.wha.org/pubArchive/special_reports/CommunityBenefits4-06.pdf

Background

- Wisconsin hospitals are taking the lead in their communities to more actively involve people in decisions affecting their health by providing ready access to current, valid information. Wisconsin hospitals now report quality and safety information to “**CheckPoint**” (<http://www.wicheckpoint.org/>); while data related to hospital charges, utilization, and payer mix are reported publicly to “**PricePoint**” (<http://www.wipricepoint.org/>). These two web-based applications provide platforms that standardize, for the first time, how this important data is collected, reported, and now, published in Wisconsin.

Issues

- In a consumer-driven health care environment, consumers will need access to information on price, safety, quality and service. Wisconsin hospitals are committed to helping consumers become more active participants in decisions related to their care.



Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.

Public Reporting

- While health care is delivered in a more competitive environment these days, **CheckPoint** offers a way for hospitals to collaborate and benchmark successes, learning best practices from one another.
- In most cases, out-of-pocket hospital costs for privately insured patients are determined by their health insurance policies, which have negotiated specific discounts with a hospital or health system and do not reflect actual charges. However, a growing number of Wisconsin residents are being covered by so-called consumer-directed health plans, under which the billed charge may factor into the amount that a patient would pay for a specific procedure at the hospital.
- Wisconsin is a national leader in collecting and disseminating information about hospital pricing, quality and safety through the WHA Information Center's **PricePoint** and WHA's **CheckPoint** initiatives, both
- private-sector efforts.
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WHA Position

- WHA supports consumer-driven health care and has mobilized its membership to provide information and data that encourages consumers to be active participants in their own health, and in that of their families. Promising collaborative efforts to collect and report information related to quality, safety and cost should continue among providers and health plans.
- In 2004, WHA developed **CheckPoint**, a public reporting program of quality and error prevention measures. The mission of **CheckPoint** is to develop consumer-focused initiatives that will provide reliable, valid measures of health care in Wisconsin to facilitate the selection of quality health care and aid in quality improvement activities in the hospitals. **CheckPoint** provides:
 - Information to purchasers to aid in benefit design
 - Information to consumers about the types of health care that research has demonstrated leading to the best outcomes
 - Information to consumers to facilitate their choice of insurance plan and provider
 - Information to hospitals for continuous quality improvement
 - Encouragement of collaboration among health care providers to educate consumers in understanding and interpreting publicly reported data
- In October 2006, the WHA Information Center launched the second version of **PricePoint**, which provides:
 - Aggregate "discount" information for each hospital for the three major kinds of health care coverage – private insurance, Medicare and Medicaid. This information allows users to understand how hospitals' charges compare to the amount of revenue they actually collect for services provided to the three patient categories.



Public Reporting

- Charge and utilization information for all inpatient services and selected high-volume outpatient surgeries and invasive diagnostic procedures.
- The ability to compare inpatient services by severity of illness and display information for up to four hospitals side-by-side.
- Accurate and timely data is the foundation of a well functioning and efficient health care market. WHA continues to strive to be a national leader in the area of public reporting, as the program expands to include new data, additional measures, and adopts a collaborative approach to encourage providers to collect and share even more information.
- Health care data is a commodity whose value and meaning are determined by the ultimate consumer of the data. Efforts to create centralized governmental or quasi-governmental data control entities will inevitably interfere with the market-based application of data and the private sector efforts that are proving successful today.
- Insurers are best positioned to provide information about patient-specific, out-of-pocket liability for a given service at a given hospital.
- The experience of WHA Information Center in privatizing a state government program shows convincingly that private-sector performance is superior:
- WHA Information Center produces quarterly data sets an average of two months faster than did BHI.
- WHA Information Center's Web site provides more current and comprehensive hospital charge information than did the state's web site.
- In 2005, WHA Information Center expanded hospital data collection to include all hospital
- outpatient services to provide consumers, purchasers and policymakers with more comprehensive hospital pricing transparency.
- Publicly reported hospital charge, quality and safety data may not answer every question, but it should, at a minimum, provide a foundation for a more informed discussion between consumers and insurers or consumers and providers of care.
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Related Resources

- **CheckPoint web site**
<http://www.wicheckpoint.org/>
- **PricePoint web site**
<http://www.wipricepoint.org/>
- **WHA Information Center web site**
<http://www.whainfocenter.com/>
- **Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality web site**
<http://www.wiqualitycollaborative.org/>
- **National Quality Forum web site**
<http://www.qualityforum.org/>
- **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality web site**
<http://www.ahrq.gov/>
- **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - Hospital Quality Initiative**
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalQualityInits/15_HospitalQualityAlliance.asp
- **Talking Points – Quality Accountability Initiative**
<http://www.wha.org/newsCenter/pdf/qualitytp12-18-02.pdf>

Localize The Message

Be prepared to talk about:

- Your hospital's efforts to ensure patient safety and quality efforts
- Your hospital's charges and policies related to the uninsured and underinsured
- How government reimbursement does not even cover what it costs to care for patients who depend on these programs

