

“HEALTHCARE TRANSPARENCY- THE WHAT AND WHY”

Over the past few years, federal regulations have become stringent in terms of requiring hospitals to publicize their list prices for services and procedures in a clear, concise way that is readily available to the general public.

The push really began at the National Governors Association meeting in August 2006, when U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt challenged the nation’s governors by saying: “My call today is for you to join with the federal government, with the major employers, in moving (value-driven health care) forward, and I believe we’ll have a substantially improved system and consumers will have not just the need to know, they’ll have what they deserve to know.”

As a result, the latest buzzword in the healthcare industry these days is “transparency” and there’s much ongoing discussion about the responsibility hospitals have to provide pricing information to consumers.

In compliance, most hospital websites offer a posting of data that lists costs associated with various surgical and other procedures, as well as pricing information for inpatient stays, emergency room visits and several other types of hospital charges.

But here at Alliance Community Hospital, transparency is more than just an obligation or catch-phrase. We truly believe in encouraging healthcare consumers to take an active role in researching healthcare-related costs that will directly impact them, such as the out-of-pocket or co-payment expenses dictated by their individual healthcare providers. On our website, you’ll find our pricing information and a current community report card grading our services. We are also working to provide even more data for our readers about our quality practices and outcomes.

At ACH, we urge consumers to review our pricing information, as well as that of some of our closest competitors, such as Salem Community Hospital (www.salemhosp.com) in Salem, Robinson Memorial Hospital (www.robinsonmemorial.org) in Ravenna or Mercy Medical Center (www.cantonmercy.com) in Canton. You’ll see that our costs are not only in line with the marketplace, but actually, in many cases, are well below those of our counterpart facilities.

We want you to comparison shop for your healthcare in much the same way you do for other major investments or capital expenditures in your personal or professional life. Our reasoning is simple: not only are we complying with federal mandates, but we are also confident that, once you are aware of the costs at other area hospitals and medical centers, you will want to come to Alliance Community Hospital for your healthcare needs.

We believe that we offer the finest healthcare services in the most clinically proficient and soothing setting available in this region – or virtually anywhere. As Ohio’s first PLANETREE facility and one of only a few in the state, ACH makes treatment of the mind, body and spirit of our patients a top priority.

Affordable, empathetic healthcare provided by board-certified professionals with dignity is not only a protocol, but rather, a way of life at Alliance Community Hospital. At our “house,” you can always depend on the services you need from the professionals you trust with the compassion you deserve. Come to Alliance Community Hospital and truly Experience Health Caring.