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HealthyHive.com announces the debut of its New Hampshire open data transparency platform

BOSTON, MA – Healthyhive.com announced today the release of its New Hampshire open data initiative that provides consumers with actionable insight to health costs in the state. The company is leveraging the state-based Comprehensive Healthcare Information System's public data file. Claims are aggregated based on insurance product type (*e.g.* HMO vs. PPO) and geographic location. In addition to providing historical cost data at the procedural level performed at over a dozen hospitals & specialty practices in the state, consumers can also research federal quality metrics furnished by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"Our content footprint combines state and federal open data to address the consumer need for relative cost *and* quality information. We would like to think this is the first step towards a long journey of empowering the consumers of New Hampshire to control their rising out-of-pocket healthcare expenses by researching cost and quality comparisons," noted co-founder Carl Hall.

The consumer decision tool comes at a good time based on the rising adoption of high deductible health plans. "In our opinion, we are not going back to the good old days of full coverage where the consumer has no need to worry about cost variation. The impending Cadillac Tax as well the growing interest by companies to opt for defined contribution health benefits means consumers have massive skin in the game today. That comes with a lot of incremental responsibility to learn the ins and outs of healthcare consumerism," according to Hall.

In 2014 the company secured a licensing agreement with the American Medical Association permitting the company to publish the proprietary CPT® code set and corresponding procedural descriptions. "The AMA agreement is critical to us being able to deliver our easy-to-use search tool. All you have to do is enter a procedure keyword to compare historical costs," explained Hall.

The company plans on working with a select group of employers and benefit consultants to beta test the platform over the coming months. The platform will be expanded in the future to include other *financial wellness* tools for consumers. The company noted that low real wage growth, rising student loan debt and uncertainty about national entitlement programs means consumers now more than ever need a roadmap for ensuring financial security during the retirement years.

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