



The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 includes various reforms and regulations to improve healthcare transparency.

Protection from Surprise Medical Bills

The No Surprises Act provides protections from unexpected medical bills. These rules prohibit providers from surprise or balance billing patients on emergency services provided by out-of-network facilities; an out-of-network provider at an in-network facility; and air ambulance services from out-of-network providers.

For more information read [Your Rights and Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills.](#)

Machine-Readable Files

As part of the Transparency in Coverage Rule, group health plans and health insurance issuers are required to make available to the public negotiated rates for all coverage items with in-network providers and historical payments to and billed charges from, out-of-network providers through machine-readable files which will be updated monthly. Since these are “machine-readable” files, the information is not in a format that can be easily accessed/understood by most people. The intent of this rule is to provide data that regulators, private companies and research organizations may use to enhance innovation and increase provider pricing competition. Please click [here](#) to access the machine-readable files.