



Column by Rep. Steve Doyle

Health Care Data Available to Consumers

The health care of you and your family is probably one of the most important concerns you will cope with during your lifetime. You should know about health care data that is available to consumers in this state concerning prices for procedures and quality of hospital services.

Want to know how much that knee replacement will cost before you have it done? How about cataract surgery? PricePoint allows people to access information about outpatient procedures and inpatient hospitalization for any hospital or surgery center in Wisconsin. Each facility reports their data four times a year to the Wisconsin Hospital Association, which then publishes the data to the PricePoint website. PricePoint was created by Wisconsin hospitals to provide information for consumers, employers and insurers to make better choices about their health care.

To access this information go to www.wipricepoint.org and choose the type of service, and a facility to check costs. This service is free to everyone.

CheckPoint is a further service provided by the Wisconsin Hospital Association which provides quality reporting by hospitals. You can view error prevention information on every Wisconsin hospital. Only Wisconsin voluntarily reports on more than 60 measures of quality and safety. Each of the measures was chosen to indicate care that will increase the chance of a positive patient outcome.

Wisconsin hospitals are encouraged to improve the quality of care they provide as a result of CheckPoint. Hospitals can compare their care progress with other hospitals in the state. Additionally, CheckPoint allows hospitals to contact their peers that are thriving in certain areas of care and identify best practices which they can use for improvement. You will note that our two local facilities rate very high. This service provides better safety and improved health care for everyone using hospital services. You can access CheckPoint at www.wicheckpoint.org If you have any questions about either of these programs, please feel free to contact me at my office in Madison at Rep.Doyle@legis.state.wi.us or at 608-266-0631.