Starting January 1, 2021, each hospital operating in the United States has been required to provide clear, accessible pricing information online about the items and services they provide in two ways:

1) As a comprehensive machine-readable file with all items and services
2) In a display of shoppable services in a consumer-friendly format.

CMS has begun to audit a sample of hospitals for compliance.

The Working Group also heard presentations from non-profit organizations, Fair Health and Consumer Checkbook, regarding their current efforts to provide additional industry data and assist in price transparency research. Consumer advocates emphasized the elements of successful price transparency tools (e.g., using independent sources,
frequently refreshing data, and organizing data in a clear and applicable way, etc.). Additionally, the presenters specified that healthcare consumers lack available data. Therefore, they shop for value and not cost.

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