

What's fair?

Fair healthcare pricing from Healthcare Blue Book

Healthcare Blue Book is a free consumer guide to help you determine fair prices in your area for healthcare services

Laminectomy

Alternate name:
Surgical removal of the lamina

(CPT code 63047)

Fair price:

Includes: Physician fee, facility fee, anesthesia fee

National fair price: \$11,744

National range: \$8,150 – 25,760

Local fair prices:

Boston, Massachusetts 02102	\$13,993
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202	\$11,558
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402.....	\$11,582
Jacksonville, Florida 32202.....	\$11,683
Los Angeles, California 90006	\$11,957
Houston, Texas 77010	\$11,814
New York, NY 10003.....	\$12,293

Check the fair price in your region at healthcarebluebook.com

Details:

How were these prices calculated and what are they based on?

This is Healthcare Blue Book's recommended price for a laminectomy.

The fair price recommendation is based on the typical negotiated payment amount that providers accept from insurance companies.

If you have insurance, you should be able to find in-network providers that accept prices at or below the Blue Book fair price, although many providers may charge more.

How should consumers use this information?

You can use the Blue Book fair price as a guide to help you compare prices when you shop for care and to make sure that you receive treatment at a fair price.

If you have health insurance, you should use your provider directory to identify in-network providers in your area. Laminectomy is an orthopedic procedure and is typically performed by an orthopedic surgeon or a neurosurgeon.

You can call the providers or your health insurance company to get a cost estimate. You will need to know the name of the procedure and possibly the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code for the service you need. It is also useful to have your insurance card available.

Prices for laminectomy may range from \$10,000 to over \$25,000 in many areas. We recommend that you call several providers to find one that charges a fair price.

If you do not have insurance, make sure to let the office know that you are a self-paying patient. Self-pay patients are frequently quoted the billed charges amount (like the sticker price for a new car) for the service, which can be 2 to 3 times what the provider would accept from an insurance company. Many providers will offer a discount to self pay patients – but you must remember to ask for the discount.

Key points to consider when shopping for a laminectomy.

- Laminectomy pricing can vary by over 200% in some locations. It is not uncommon to find laminectomy pricing below \$10,000 or above \$25,000. You should call several providers to ask about the price of your laminectomy before you have your procedure.
- Make sure that the price estimate includes the physician fee, the facility fee and the anesthesia fee. You may need to call your physician, the facility and the anesthesia practice to get prices.
- Sometimes laminectomy is performed in conjunction with other procedures, such as the removal of a spinal disk. Make sure you ask your provider if other procedures are going to be performed, and whether additional procedures will impact the cost.

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- Be sure to also ask about other costs you may have to pay that are related to the surgery. These costs may include laboratory tests before and after the procedure, imaging tests (CT or MRI) and medications.
- If your Primary Care Physician has already referred you to a specialist, make sure to ask for their price and compare it to the Blue Book fair price before receiving treatment.
- If you get a price estimate that is significantly higher than the fair price, you may want to talk to your doctor about other facilities where you could have your procedure performed.

If you have a Health Savings Account (HSA) or Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) you can apply those funds to any deductible, co-insurance or other out of pocket costs.

Is a laminectomy typically covered by health insurance plans?

Yes, laminectomy is usually covered by health insurance. Always check with your insurer to make sure a procedure is covered before seeking treatment.

Your insurer may require pre-certification prior to agreeing to cover your laminectomy. You should always ask and then confirm that your provider is going to obtain pre-certification for your laminectomy before you receive treatment.

If your provider does not obtain pre-certification prior to your laminectomy, you will need to call the health plan and request pre-certification yourself. Insurers may deny payment of the claim if you have not obtained pre-certification.

Is a laminectomy typically covered by Medicare or Medicaid plans?

Yes, laminectomy is covered under Medicare and Medicaid. Your provider may need to establish medical necessity or pre-certification before you receive treatment.

What kind of out-of-pocket costs should I expect to pay?

Your out of pocket costs will depend on the type of insurance that you have. You may be responsible for copays, deductibles or coinsurance amounts. In order to determine your out of pocket costs, always review your co-pay amounts, current deductible balance and current co-insurance obligation before seeking treatment. If you have questions about your benefit plan or out of pocket costs, talk to your insurance company.

Remember, if you have a Health Savings Account (HSA) or Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) you can apply those funds to any deductible, co-insurance or other out of pocket costs.

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Do the costs for this service vary depending on which provider I use?

The price variation in some locations can vary by more than 200%. Make sure to ask about the price of this service before you get your care to make sure that you will be charged a fair price. If you are not satisfied with a provider's price, you can consider other providers that may offer you a more reasonable price.

What other trends or variations in cost should I be aware of?

Some patients may be able to have this surgery performed on an outpatient basis. Outpatient surgery is often less expensive than the inpatient surgery.

What other tips can help me ensure I get the best price?

The choice of hospital for your laminectomy will usually have the biggest impact on your total price.

Many surgeons only operate at certain hospitals. You may want to find out what hospitals have the best pricing and then find surgeons who can do your surgery at those hospitals.

Qualifications

Hospitals should be accredited by The Joint Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

Orthopedic surgeons should be board certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgeons.

The pricing and benefits information reflected in this report is based upon the common pricing and practices found in most markets and may not reflect the specific pricing or health benefits available to you. Some providers charge amounts well in excess of the Blue Book fair price. Some insurance plans cover services differently. If possible, you should check with your medical provider and health insurance company to confirm pricing and benefit coverage for services before you get care. In addition, you will want to check on your providers' quality information.

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