

# 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

## Vasectomy

(CPT code 55250)

### Fair price:

Includes: Physician fee, facility fee, anesthesia fee

**National fair price:** ..... **\$1,003**

**National range:** ..... **\$700 – 2,100**

### Local fair prices:

**Boston, Massachusetts 02102** ..... **\$1,133**

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202** ..... **\$984**

**Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402** ..... **\$956**

**Jacksonville, Florida 32202** ..... **\$989**

**Los Angeles, California 90006** ..... **\$1,078**

**Houston, Texas 77010** ..... **\$1,032**

**New York, NY 10003** ..... **\$1,187**

Check the fair price in your region at [healthcarebluebook.com](http://healthcarebluebook.com)

### Details:

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

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

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. Vasectomy is a urological procedure and is typically performed in-office by a urologist.

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 surgery. It is also useful to have your insurance card available.

Different in-network providers often charge different prices. Prices for vasectomy may range from \$500 to over \$2,000 in many areas. We recommend that patients 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 rate (or retail rate) for the service, which can be 2 to 3 times what the provider would accept from an insurance company. However, 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 vasectomy.

- Prices for this service frequently vary by over 200% in many locations. Patients should call several urologists to ask about the price before you have your procedure.
- The price estimate covers a traditional, in-office vasectomy. Other techniques for vasectomy, which may include no-scalpel, clip and laser vasectomies may add additional cost.
- Vasectomy is usually performed in the doctor's office and includes the cost of the physician, local anesthetic and the facility fee. Always confirm with your provider that all costs are included before receiving treatment.

## **What's fair? Vasectomy**

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- 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 vasectomy typically covered by health insurance plans?**

Yes, vasectomy is typically covered by health insurance plans. 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 treatment. You should always ask and then confirm that your provider is going to obtain pre-certification before you receive treatment.

If your surgeon does not obtain pre-certification prior to your vasectomy, you will need to call the health plan and request pre-certification yourself. Always make sure that you have received pre-certified before receiving treatment. Insurers may deny payment of the claim if you have not obtained pre-certification.

### **Is a vasectomy typically covered by Medicare or Medicaid plans?**

Vasectomy is a non-covered service under Medicare.

Vasectomy is covered by most state Medicaid plans as a family planning benefit. However, patients should check their local state Medicaid web-site for coverage and conditions.

### **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.

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

The price variation in most locations varies by 200% or more depending on where you get your care. 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?

There are a number of newer techniques to the traditional vasectomy, including no scalpel, laser and clip techniques. Patients should be sure to talk to their surgeon about different methods, and the impact those methods may have upon the cost of the procedure.

### Qualifications

Urologists should be board certified by the American Board of Urology.

### Alternatives

There are a wide variety of contraception methods that can be used as an alternative to vasectomy. You can discuss alternative forms of contraception with your physician.

### Other concerns

Vasectomy is considered a low risk procedure with little pain and few complications.

Patients should be aware that vasectomy is technically considered a permanent procedure. However, a growing number of patients are having vasectomy reversal procedures. Vasectomy reversal procedures are not 100% effective in terms of enabling the patient to successfully have children. Vasectomy reversal surgery can cost varies from \$4,000 to more than \$10,000 depending on where you live. Vasectomy reversal surgery is typically not covered by insurance.

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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