

Press Releases

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26% of Respondents Report Surprise Medical Bills—up from 23% in Insure.com 2020 Survey

By [Insure.com](https://www.insure.com) Posted on November 10, 2021

Survey results show 40% of consumers receive surprise bills of \$1,000 or more

Foster City, CA—November 10, 2021-- An [Insure.com](https://www.insure.com) survey of 1,000 people finds that surprise medical bills continue to be problematic for many. The most frequent reasons for unexpected medical bills this year are:

- Hospital – 49%
- Lab tests – 48%

- Physician services – 43%
- Imaging – 29%
- Prescription drugs – 20%
- Ambulance transport – 13%

The complete report is available: [How to avoid surprise medical bills](#). Survey respondents share that surprise medical bill amounts vary, with many being a significant burden:

- Less than \$500 – 33%
- \$500-\$1,000 – 27%
- \$1,001-\$2,000 – 19%
- More than \$2,000 – 21%

“Although it may not be possible to avoid all surprise [health insurance](#) bills, patients can take steps to minimize unexpected costs,” explains Les Masterson, managing editor for Insure.com. “Request a detailed cost estimate in advance of an elective procedure, confirm that your physician and facility are included in your plan’s network, and

keep notes during billing discussions.”

Insure.com experts outline seven typical situations that can result in surprise health care bills and offer specific steps to take to appeal or negotiate unexpected charges for routine or emergency care.

Masterson is available to discuss how consumers can work with health care providers to avoid surprise medical bills and can advise on [how to get health insurance if you're unemployed](#).

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