
e-Appendix 2: Computation of relative payments for care

We calculated relative payments as the ratio of private for-profit (PFP) payments to private not-for-profit (PNFP) payments. The effect size used in the meta-analysis was the natural logarithm of the relative payment

We calculated the relative payments by dividing the PFP mean by the PNFP mean in the 3 studies that reported PFP and PNFP mean payments.^{7,9,11} The variance of the relative payment was calculated using the variances of the PFP means and the PNFP means. Of the 3 studies that provided means, 2 also provided standard deviations from which standard errors and variances of the means could be calculated.^{9,11} For 1 study,⁷ standard errors had to be calculated from p values

Three studies provided results from a linear regression model of the logarithm of charges.^{8,12,13} For these studies, we calculated the relative payments from the estimated regression parameters for ownership status. We obtained variances for our effect sizes from the standard errors of the estimated regression parameters for 2 studies^{8,12} and from a z value for the third study¹³

The authors of 1 study provided us with raw payments data for 2 years.¹⁰ We calculated means and standard errors for PFP and PNFP payments and then calculated relative payments for each of the 2 years. To obtain just 1 estimate for this study, we meta-analyzed the logarithms of the 2 relative payments estimates via a random effects model. This combined effect size was then used in our overall meta-analysis

One study provided only median values and standard deviations for PFP and PNFP payments for 2 different groups, "new" and "existing" facilities.¹⁴ Standard errors were first calculated from standard deviations. We then combined across "new" and "existing" via a weighted average of the medians, weighted by number of hospitals, and calculated the variance of these values as if they were true means. We used these weighted averages as mean values for PFP and PNFP payments to calculate relative payments
