

Unfair Medicare Rewards High Cost, Lower Quality States Penalizes Low Cost, High Quality States

Table 1: Minnesota #1 in providing quality care

State	AHRQ Quality Rank
Minnesota	#1
Wisconsin	#2
North Dakota	#3
Iowa	#4
Nebraska	#5
New York	#40
Florida	#41
Texas	#45
Louisiana	#51

Minnesota consistently provides high quality health care as evidenced by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality rankings. While Minnesota leads the nation in quality, Medicare's payment system penalizes Minnesota's hospital, health plan and clinic excellence.

Table 2: Minnesota #40 in rates paid to health plans to provide coverage

State	Rank	Medicare Advantage Monthly Payment Rates to Plans
Florida	#1	\$1,013
Louisiana	#2	\$1,003
New York	#4	\$973
Texas	#11	\$898
National Average	NA	\$850
Minnesota	#40	\$776
Nebraska	#41	\$772
Wisconsin	#44	\$765
Iowa	#46	\$752
North Dakota	#49	\$726

The monthly payment Minnesota health plans receive per Medicare Advantage enrollee is below the national average, as reported by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 2009.

Table 3: Minnesota #43 in total Medicare per patient spending for hospital and clinic

State	Rank	Per Patient Medicare Spending
New York	#1	\$9,564
Louisiana	#3	\$9,401
Florida	#4	\$9,379
Texas	#6	\$9,361
National Average	NA	\$8,304
Wisconsin	#37	\$6,978
Nebraska	#39	\$6,922
Minnesota	#43	\$6,600
Iowa	#45	\$6,572
North Dakota	#50	\$6,108

Medicare spends more per patient in states with low quality care, than it does in Minnesota, according to the Dartmouth Atlas Project, 2006.