



Protect Access to Outpatient Care

Facility fees support your patient care team and improve access to critical services

It is important to be clear and accurate about what critical outpatient fees support – and what they mean for Colorado patients.

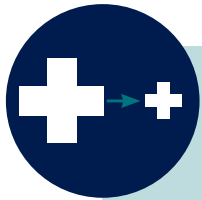
Three important facts about facility fees:



1. Your visit to an outpatient clinic that is owned by a hospital involves a lot more than your time with the doctor. Facility fees support **everyone and everything else** during your visit. This includes nurses, technicians, environmental services, interpreters, security personnel, lab workers, medical supplies, electronic health records, and much more.



2. Facility fees support the expert team that provides your care, but also **support a broader system** that makes important specialized care accessible and convenient for other Coloradans – especially those living in rural and other underserved areas.



3. Prohibiting facility fees would devastate Colorado's health care ecosystem. **Without facility fees, outpatient facilities would close or shrink**, forcing patients to more expensive and less convenient care settings like the emergency room. They would also be forced to travel further for essential treatment and asked to rely on a more confusing and disconnected health care landscape.

Go deeper:

- Unlike independent clinics, outpatient clinics owned by hospitals are **required to bill facility fees and provider fees** separately by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and many private insurance carriers.
- **Colorado already leads the nation** as one of only a few states with clear strategies to make sure patient charges are transparent. Those include public reporting requirements, financial transparency, cost-sharing protections, and consumer notification mandates.¹
- Banning facility fees would result in **more than \$9 billion in cuts** to Colorado hospitals, making 96 percent of Colorado hospitals financially unsustainable.²

The bottom line:

Don't let the term "facility fees" fool you – these charges are often the only source of income hospitals have to support the clinical and support staff at their outpatient clinics.

Prohibitions on facility fees are harmful to Colorado patients and their dedicated care teams.

¹ Based on a report from the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy Center on Health Insurance Reforms.

² Based on 2022 Medicare Cost Report data.