

# Paying Till it Hurts



Colonoscopy

AVG. U.S. PRICE

**\$1,185**

SWITZERLAND

**\$655**



Hip replacement

AVG. U.S. PRICE

**\$40,364**

SPAIN

**\$7,731**



Lipitor

AVG. U.S. PRICE

**\$124**

NEW ZEALAND

**\$6**

# Colonoscopy: Location, Location, Location



# NY Colonoscopies

- Deirdre Yapalater
  - Facility Fee -- \$2910
  - Anesthesia -- \$2400
  - Gastroenterologist – \$1075
  - TOTAL: \$6385
  - PAID: \$3965
- 
- Maureen O'Rourke
  - At Hospital: \$9142.84
  - In Office: \$5322.76

# Transparency -- Huge Price Variation



The cost of a colonoscopy in the United States varies widely, from place to place, and even within a city. The map shows the highest amount paid for a colonoscopy in metropolitan areas. based on an analysis by Healthcare Blue Book.



# Renee's charges

- Statement after delivery without any discounts; not an official bill:
- Hospital charges -- \$20,257
- Obstetrician -- \$4,020
- Anesthesiologist-- \$3,278
- Drugs -- \$1,125
- Bills for prenatal care:
  - Emergency visit -- \$1,600
  - Genetic testing -- \$1,500
  - Ultrasound -- \$1,191
  - Radiology-- \$520
  - Hematologist -- \$346

# Paid for Childbirth

## Average 2012 Amount Paid for Childbirth

	CONVENTIONAL DELIVERY	CAESAREAN
<b>United States</b>	<b>\$9,775</b>	<b>\$15,041</b>
Switzerland	4,039	5,186
France	3,541	6,441
Chile	2,992	3,378
Netherlands	2,669	5,328
Britain	2,641	4,435
South Africa	2,035	3,449

Note: Amounts paid are the actual payments agreed to by insurance companies or other payers for services, and are lower than billed charges. Amounts shown include routine prenatal, delivery and postpartum obstetric care. Some care provided by practitioners other than the obstetrician – like ultrasounds performed by a radiologist or blood testing by a lab – are not included in this tally.

Total Hip (IN BELGIUM) \$13,000





# Prescription Medicine

## The Soaring Cost of a Simple Breath



### YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Has buying a prescription drug strained your budget or have you used a medicine more sparingly than prescribed because of cost? Tell us which drug was involved.

SUBMIT

Robin Levi's two daughters both have asthma, but they are able to control it thanks to good insurance coverage. Some students Ms. Levi tutors also suffer from asthma but lack the same insurance and medical care. Sean Patrick Farrell/The New York Times; photo by Max Whittaker for The New York Times

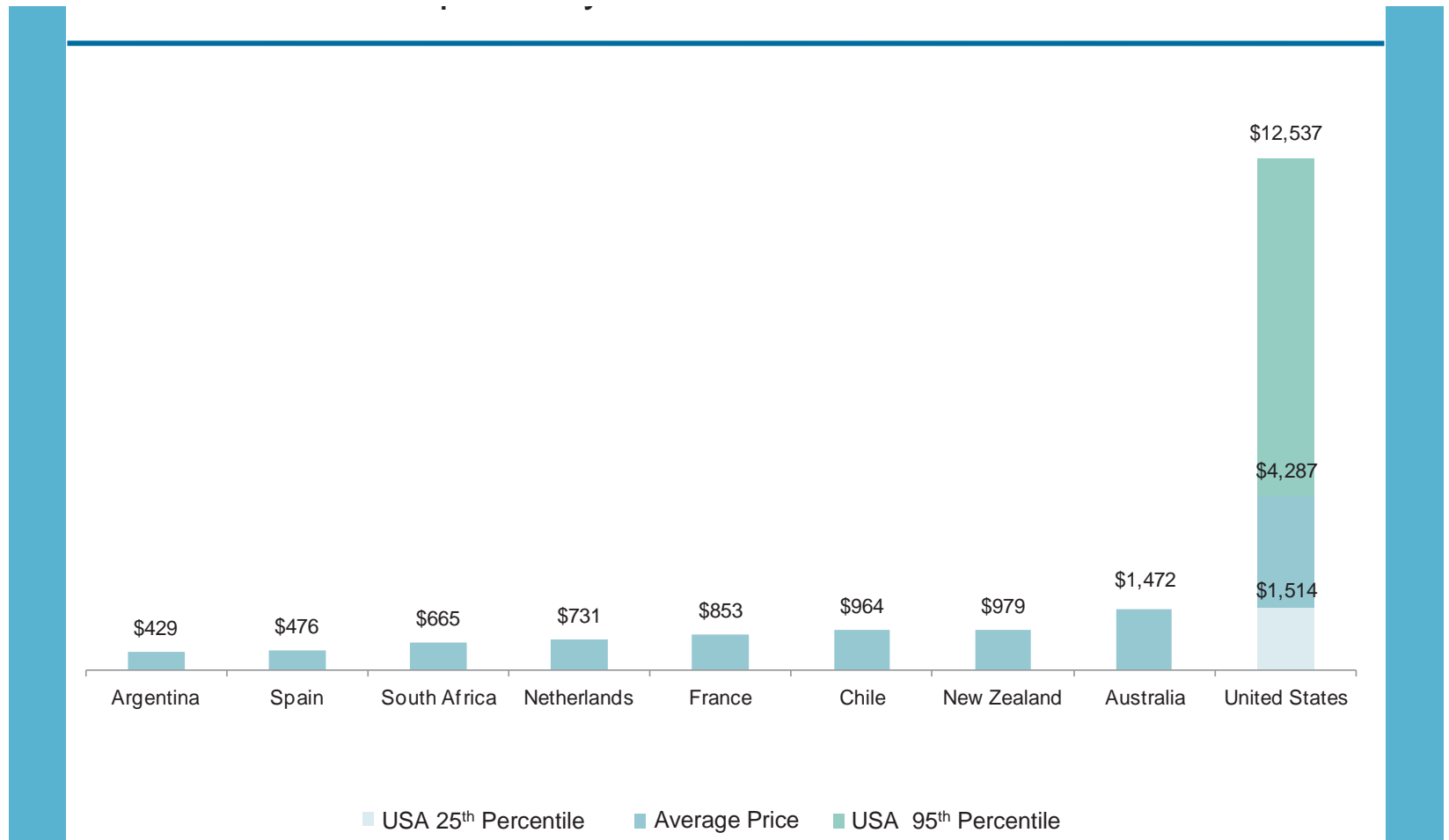
# Ben Bellar's Stitches



# CPMC Chargemaster Prices

Blood Gas Analysis, including O2 saturation	82805	
Thyroid Stimulating Hormone	84443	186.00
Troponin, Quantitative	84484	150.00
Complete Blood Count, with differential WBC, automated	85025	85.00
Complete Blood Count, automated	85027	100.00
Prothrombin Time	85610	50.00
Partial Thromboplastin Time	85730	75.00
<b>Radiology Services (CPT Codes 70010-79999)</b>	<b>2013 CPT Code</b>	
CT Scan, Head or Brain, without contrast	70450	2,566.00
X-Ray, Chest, two views	71020	450.00
X-Ray, Lumbo Sacral, four views	72110	800.00
CT Scan, Pelvis, with contrast	72193	3,927.00
CT Scan, Abdomen, with contrast	74160	4,495.00
Ultrasound, Abdomen, Complete	76700	1,105.00
Ultrasound, OB, 14 weeks or more, single fetus, transabdominal	76805	1,101.00
Screening Mammography Digital (Bilateral)	G0202	285.00
<b>Medicine Services (CPT Codes 90281-99607)</b>	<b>2013 CPT</b>	
Electrocardiogram 12 Lead Tracing Only	93005	297.00
Echocardiography, complete	93307	
Inhalation Treatment, pressurized or nonpressurized	94640	318.00
<b>Surgery Services (CPT Codes 10021-69990)</b>	<b>2013 CPT Code</b>	<b>Average Charge Amount</b>
Arthroscopy, Knee, with meniscectomy (medial or lateral)	29881	16,698.23
Arthroscopy, Shoulder, with partial acromioplasty	29826	
Carpal Tunnel Surgery	64721	10,907.69
Cataract Removal with Insertion of Intraocular Lens, 1 Stage	66984	
Colonoscopy, diagnostic	45378	

# Cost of a hospital day



# HOSPITAL IN BELGIUM



# HOSPITAL IN NEW YORK



Marilynn K. Yee/The New York Times

✘ INCORRECT

## Mount Sinai Medical Center

The Eleven West wing in this Manhattan hospital. Many hospitals have "executive floors," offering high-thread-count sheets, butlers and menus prepared by famous chefs.

# Mohs Surgery



# MD compensation

\$920,555
Orthopedic surgery: hip and joint
\$820,569
Orthopedic surgery: spine
\$707,252
Surgery: neurological
\$583,837
Cardiology: invasive-interventional
\$516,081
Dermatology: Mohs surgery
\$488,200
Gastroenterology
\$425,006
Hematology/Oncology
\$378,009
Anesthesiology
\$345,726
Ophthalmology
\$300,000
Obstetrics/Gynecology: General
\$264,863
Neurology
\$220,000
Internal Medicine: General
\$166,754
Pediatrics: child development
Source: Medical Group Management Association



# Catherine Hayley's Yearly Supplies

OUTHERNET'S COST

\$4,224

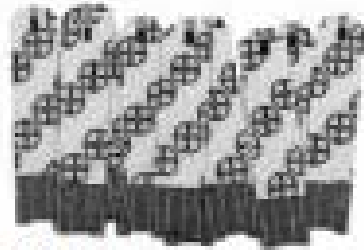
COST WITH NO INSURANCE

\$26,470

Testing Blood Sugar



Lancets



Test strips

Total does not include any additional

Delivering insulin  
Insulin



Insulin pump  
reservoir



AAA  
battery



Insulin pump  
infusion set

Insulin pump

Costs Catherine \$3,500. Her insurance allows her to upgrade every four years.

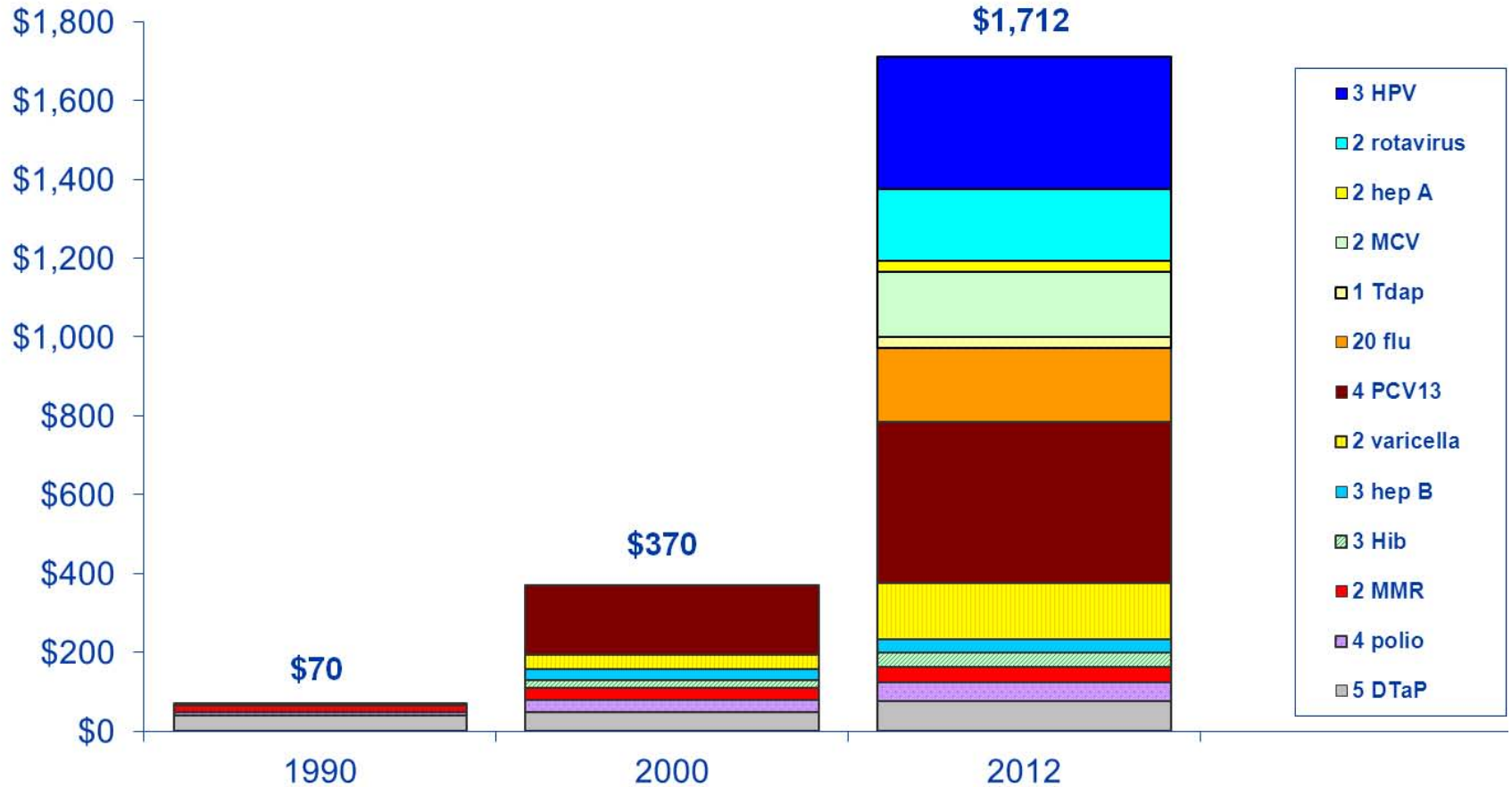


In Case of  
Emergency

Emergency  
insulin kit



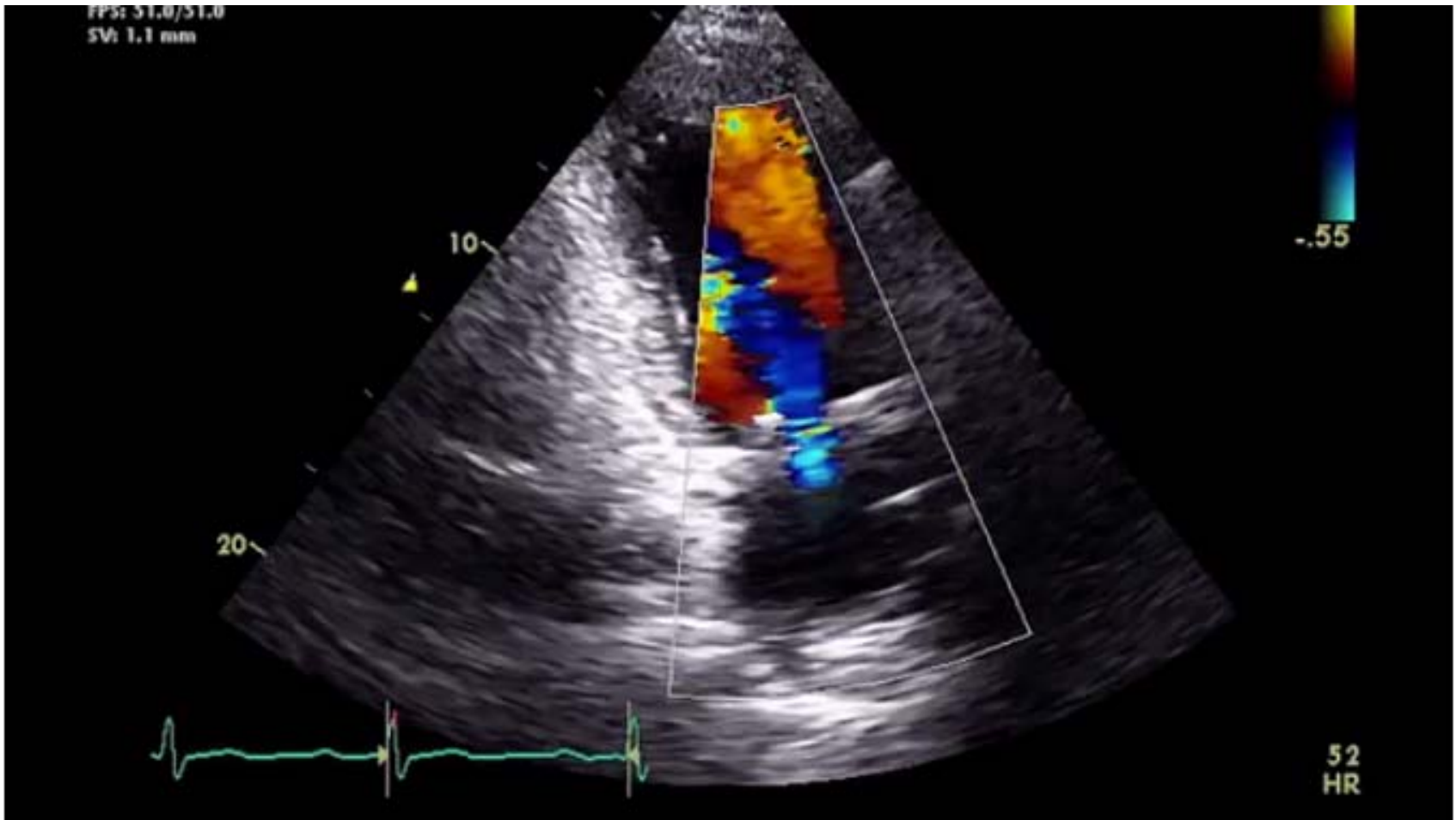
# Price of required childhood vaccines



# Many Surprise Charges The \$117,000 Assistant Surgeon



# Len Charlap's Echocardiograms worth \$1200 or \$5400?



# Find the Whole Series Here

[www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/health/paying-till-it-hurts.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/health/paying-till-it-hurts.html)

# Join Our New Facebook Group

The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook group page. At the top, the group name "Paying Till It Hurts" is visible in the navigation bar. The profile picture of the group is a close-up of a person's mouth using a blue inhaler, with a New York Times logo in the background. The page layout includes a left-hand navigation menu with options like "Home Feed", "Messages", "Events", "Photos", "Profile", "Friends", and "Groups". Below the navigation menu, there are tabs for "Paying Till It Hurts", "Members", "Events", "Photos", and "Files". A "Write Post" section is visible with options to "Write Post", "Add Photo/Video", "Ask Question", and "Add File". On the right side, there is an "ABOUT" section with the text "The New York Times' Paying Till it Hurts Facebook Group is a forum for conversation analysis an... See More" and "596 members (355 new) · Invite by Email".

**Paying Till It Hurts** Elisabeth Home Find Friends

Elisabeth Rosenthal Edit Profile

Home Feed Messages 8 Events Photos Profile

Paying Till It Hurts Friends 20+

Groups

**Paying Till It Hurts** Members Events Photos Files

Write Post Add Photo/Video Ask Question Add File

Write something...

**ABOUT** 596 members

**Open Group**

The New York Times' Paying Till it Hurts Facebook Group is a forum for conversation analysis an... [See More](#)

596 members (355 new) · [Invite by Email](#)