

**Letter to the Editor:** *New York Times*  
April 25, 2012

## **When it comes to medical costs, consumer MUST be aware**

To the editor:

“The Confusion of Hospital Pricing” (4/23) and | “Insurers Alter Cost Formula, and Patients Pay More” (4/24) 24,) both highlight a basic problem with the medical system. Health care is one area of our financial lives where it is hard to be a good consumer.

When was the last time your doctor provided an itemized list of charges for your healthcare or estimate prior to receiving said services? Probably never.

While both articles highlight different aspects of the health insurance coverage, a basic question remains unanswered. Lawyers, groceries and other businesses must disclose their costs up front – before service is provided. Why should doctors be any different? Medical providers should be forced to disclose their cost, network status and billing practices front.

Sincerely,

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