

**To:** Florida Hospital Commission[flhospitalcommission@ahca.myflorida.com]  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wed 10/28/2015 7:39:51 PM  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Report Price Gouging Submittal (AHCAPHI)  
**MAIL\_RECEIVED:** Wed 10/28/2015 7:39:55 PM

**Submittor Information**

**Name:** [REDACTED]  
**Phone Number:** [REDACTED]  
**Email Address:** [REDACTED]  
**County:** [REDACTED]

**Price Gouging Experience:**

I was hospitalized [REDACTED] in a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] last year after a [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

that affected in my 180\* vision; the area between 175 - 180" of the right eye. I was admitted at night, test ran the next day, all of them. Kept another night, and a good part of the following day on "observation" although I did not get much of that, actually I told them that If they were not doing anything with me I was going home regardless of their opinion. Spent 2 nights in the hospital. The bill was \$ 20,000.00, the prices for the services outrageous. I happened to be a veterinarian, I know what medicine cost: I owned 2.5 animal hospitals in my life time. I am 60 years old. They billed my insurance for \$ 360.00 for "Occupational therapy" that I never received. I did get the visit of a therapist and we talked about how nice the pets are, the moon and the stars... I disputed the charge; requested the records. No records available to justify the bill but a phone call: - "well...it was not Occupational "THERAPY" it was an "EVALUATION"... I requested

records of the "evaluation". They could not come up with it, so they sent me a letter stating that they would deduct the amount from the bill to my insurance. The whole bill was ridiculous, I could give you more details, I remember they charged the insurance for \$ 150.00 to check for Magnesium levels. That element is regularly checked in any regular chemistry of 20 test that cost \$ 140.00 on every animal hospital in Florida. I wish I could find an article I read in one of the local newspapers, beautifully written by a reporter complaining and comparing the cost of veterinary medicine with the cost of human medicine! It was excellent. For starters: you know that the dog surgery will cost you \$ 3,000.00 but you will never know how much your procedure will cost you! To have a dog is a luxury. The right to your health is not. In [REDACTED] Argentina, (3rd World Country), my sister had a "boob job" absolutely free. Paid by the government. Totally unnecessary cosmetic surgery. She gave the surgeon a bottle of Jack Daniels, as a courtesy. That's all she paid. Don't tell me that the first country in the world cannot afford reasonably priced health care for his citizens when we are landing in meteorites, and can drop \$ 1 M bombs like candy. I just had a cardioversion procedure done: IV catheter, injection of [REDACTED], one pad in the chest, another on my back, zapping of 1" duration. My co-pay was \$ 300.00 Catheter cost 3.00, Bottle of [REDACTED] may be \$ 7.00. The \$ 300.00 should have paid for the second of electricity, the amortization of the machine they used, the nurse, the nurse anesthesiologist and the 15' the

cardiologist spent on my bed side....That's the tip of the iceberg, I am looking forward to see what they are billing to the insurance company. I pay \$ 24,000.00/year in premiums + this "co-pays" that lately have been always around \$ 200.00 every time I get something done. We are a couple with a 12 yr old daughter. No dental included in the coverage...and that's another story... [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] charged \$ 227.21, cost: \$ 3.50 with any machine. Veterinary clients pay \$ 45 to \$ 50.00 37 hrs. nurse observation: \$ 1,780.00 (I can assure she was not in my room 37 hrs) Basic metabolic panel: \$ 221.25 (Cost between \$ 12.00 to \$ 25.00 depending the machine. Magnesium level: \$ 152.36 (normally part of ANY regular chemistry). I am surprised did not charge Glucose separately! Carotid doppler \$ 1,549.62 (an outstanding ultrasound machine cost around \$ 100,000.00... with 60 ultrasounds that they will do in 15 days is totally paid for). One pill of [REDACTED] \$ 25.81....

Although I believe I am just wasting my time, I would like to believe that something good will come out of it one day. This is the Country I chose to live in and I would not change it for any other in the world, it hurts to see how things are sliding. At least I tried to do my part. Sincerely, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]