

Capstone Proposal

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The cost of health care in the United States is becoming a subject of more and more concern, particularly with the changing landscape of the health insurance industry. One area of interest is to look at the charges a hospital bills to the insurance company for a given procedure and how it can vary drastically from hospital to hospital. For my Capstone Project I will study at the publicly available dataset 'Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Provider Summary for the Top 100 Diagnosis-Related Groups (DRG) - FY2011' available from [data.gov](https://data.cms.gov/Medicare/Inpatient-Prospective-Payment-System-IPPS-Provider/97k6-zzx3) here: <https://data.cms.gov/Medicare/Inpatient-Prospective-Payment-System-IPPS-Provider/97k6-zzx3>.

This dataset contains hospital charges for over 3,000 health care providers in the United States that receive Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) payments for the top 100 most frequently billed Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) for Fiscal Year 2011. Using this dataset I will attempt to characterize how these hospital charges vary across the United States and possibly make predictions of procedure costs using features such as the location and population.