SPENDING YOUR MONEY

Will it be a new car?



Around \$15000

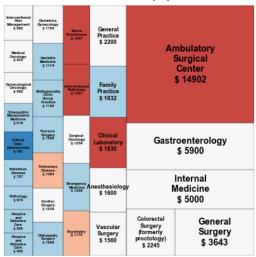
That is the top charge to Medicare for a colonoscopy in California and in ambulatory surgical centers. That is also enough to buy a car...



Average \$ 993

On average, a colonoscopy in the US costs about the same as an HDTV. But that is only half the story. The distribution of charges shows that Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Laboratories, Ambulatory Centers and Interventional Radiology charge well above the average. The other factor affecting cost is location. Texas, New York, New Jersey and California make the top 10 on average and maximum charges. Remote Alaska at \$1722 is four times more expensive than remote Puerto Rico at \$404

Or a colonoscopy?





You do see red! Four types of facilities rank high for the average charge and for the maximum charge. Two more in orange are systematically above average.

In the leftmost column, these facilities charged a maximum that was lower than the average across all facilities, and on average charged less than all the other facilities.

