

Total Medical Cost Comparison

There are many items that together make up your total cost when you obtain a medical service. If what you are doing is even slightly complicated then it can be easy to miss a major component of your total bill. This is compounded by the physician's reluctance to make commitments or to provide package prices. Because of this you need to be aggressively inquisitive when trying to determine what your actual costs will be. If you are considering whether you should take a medical vacation this is even more important: you don't want to inadvertently spend more money than you've budgeted or can afford. Many people are intimidated by their doctors or somehow feel that it is "cheap" to ask about the costs in detail up front. That isn't being cheap, that is being prudent. Whether you are seeking cosmetic dentistry, a quadruple bypass or anything in between, you should have a good idea of the known costs and what the potential costs are if there are exceptional circumstances or unforeseen complexities.

The following checklist is designed to help you to calculate all of the costs that will be associated with your procedure at home and abroad so that you can work out your costs for staying at home and two alternatives.

	Home Cost	Destination One Cost	Destination Two Cost
Before Treatment			
Clothing & Similar items you don't now own that you MUST purchase			
Visas, inoculations, etc. if traveling abroad			
Transportation (Air, taxi, car, etc.)			
Home costs or savings (e.g. house-sitter, electricity savings, etc.)			
Pre-op consultation & tests			
Hotel or Resort			
Meals			
The Procedure			
Hospital Room			
Nursing fees			
Operating Room			
Doctors, Assistants & Nurses			
Supplies			
Medications			
Post-Op			
Hospital Room			
Nursing fees			
Supplies			
Attendant/Assistant			
Food			
Recovery			
Hotel or Resort			
Meals			
Post Op Checkups			

Tours			
Entertainment			
Transportation			
Return Home			
Total			

Of course, although money is a major issue in determining whether or not to take a medical vacation, you should make your decision as to where you wish to take your vacation based on more than just money. Some of these considerations are where you would like to take your vacation, your physical condition before and after your hospitalization, how comfortable you feel about the country that you'll be visiting and the level of English (or your native tongue) that is spoken in the country.