North Carolina

North Carolina has made recent strides in health care transparency by requiring the NC Department of Health and Human Services to publish charge information relating to the most frequently reported admissions. However, the state lacks a legislated website such as an all-payer claims database (APCD) to enable consumers to make side-by-side price comparisons between providers, and consequently earned an F from the Catalyst for Payment Reform group on the 2016 Report Card on State Price Transparency Laws.

The federal government and the state AG have also been active in enforcing antitrust law North Carolina. Most recently, in June 2016, the Department of Justice filed a civil suit in federal court in North Carolina against Carolinas Healthcare System (Atrium Health), alleging that the provider uses anticompetitive, illegal anti-steering clauses in its contracts with insurers, which prohibit commercial health insurers in the Charlotte area from offering patients financial benefits to use less-expensive healthcare services offered by CHS’s competitors. The case settled when Defendants agreed to end their anticompetitive practices.