
Pricing long-term care for older persons

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Comparing prices across countries

Countries in this study gathered prices for several standard services provided either at home or in a facility, including medical or nursing care, personal care and assistance services.

Table 8 reports the mean price for these services using an hour as the unit of measurement for home-based services and a week of stay in a facility for institutional-based care. Prices are expressed in US dollars using period-average 2019 exchange rates. Of note for Australia, government funding is set for a package of services (home care and residential care) and any additional services are market-based. In residential care, additional services are a small proportion of the total price; therefore, most care is priced at the assessed level of the government subsidy.

The price for an hour of care at home varies between US\$ 45.60 and 65.30 for medical or nursing care, from US\$ 16.30 to 65.30 for personal care and from US\$ 16.30 to 62.20 for assistance services. A week of medical or nursing care in a residential setting is paid between US\$ 257.50 and 730.60, whereas a week of personal care is paid from US\$ 43.60 to 444.00 and a week of assistance services from US\$ 33.70 to 465.00. Some countries reported that a unique price is used for different types of services provided during a week of care in a residential setting, and that that price varies between US\$ 1071 and 2994.

The likely explanations for the variation in reported prices include differences in wages, the intensity of the service provided, and the qualification of the staff that provide the service. Furthermore, prices for residential-based services may not cover the same cost items across reporting countries.

Table 8. Mean price by type of care provided (in US\$)

	Home care per hour of care			Facility-based care per week of care		
Country	Personal care services	Medical or nursing care	Assistance services	Personal care services	Medical or nursing care	Assistance services
France	22	47.8	13	43.6 / 160.1 (low dependency/ high dependency)	257.5	465.7
Germany	Not available	Not available	Not available	318.6	412.4 / 730.6	Not available
Republic of Korea	18.6 / 62.2	45.6	18.6 / 62.2	337.7 / 415.4	376.8 / 458 (LTC hospitals)	337.7 / 415.4
The Netherlands	65.3	65.3	30.2	One tariff including all services: 1915.6	Not available	Not available
Spain	14.6	Not available	14.6	396.7	396.7	396.7
United States: Medicaid	22 (16/28)	Not available	21 (16 / 28)	Not available	Not available	Not available
United States: Medicaid nursing home	Not available	Not available	Not available	one tariff including all services: 1715 (1071/ 2905)	Not available	Not available
United States: Medicare Skilled Nursing Facilities	Not available	Not available	Not available	one tariff including all services: 2994.9	Not available	Not available
United States: Medicare home health care	69.1	152.6	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available

Note: figures reported in this table are indicative. They should not be directly compared across countries as prices may cover different types of costs.

Sources: Berenschot (2019); Nederlandse Zorgautoriteit (2019); Statistics Netherlands (2020); Authors' estimates.