How Low Hospital Prices Could Go

In Minnesota there is a special agreement between 50 hospitals and the Attorney General’s office regarding debt collection from the uninsured. Under the agreement, uninsured patients who make less than $125,000 a year receive the same hospital discounts as health insurance companies.

This is a 40 to 60 percent price reduction. If you don’t live in Minnesota, see if there is any such practice in your state. This reduction shows how low prices could and should go. Ask yourself: why are there different prices for different people at a hospital? Can a store charge you and your neighbor different prices for the same thing?

“Agreement on Discounted Care and Hospital Debt Collection” (Minnesota), Families USA, March 2007.