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**Pratter, LLC, Launches New Web-Based Service to Help Health Care Consumers Find and Compare Costs for Outpatient Medical Tests and Procedures**

**Pittsburgh, PA** – Pratter means *price matters*. Pratter, LLC, today launched a new web-based service ([www.pratter.us](http://www.pratter.us)) that allows consumers in multiple states to search and compare medical costs for imaging studies, blood work, elective medical procedures as well as physician and emergency room visits. Health care consumers have had difficulty finding and understanding medical costs due to a lack of medical cost transparency. Pratter.us is now the place to search specific medical costs *before* receiving medical care and will reach nearly 70 million Americans with its database at the time of launch with plans to expand into all 50 states.

For most Americans, health insurance sticker price shock is setting in. By the end of 2014, its full effect will be known and the annual premium amount per family is likely to double on average across this country. Many families will have high deductibles of over \$5,000 each year! The explosion of out-of-pocket increases in medical costs is coupled by the troubling fact that health care consumers cannot shop for prices *before* the time of purchase.

If one goes to the grocery store to buy a gallon of milk, he or she knows the price of the gallon of milk before it is purchased. If one goes to the gas station, he or she knows the price of a gallon of gas *before* it is purchased. Shouldn't the same principle apply to medical costs? Pratter thinks so.

Pratter will also benefit hospitals, surgery centers, imaging centers and lab centers by providing an easy-to-use, authenticated portal for them to upload their costs to demonstrate their quality cost-effective medical care. Costs listed will be guaranteed to all health care consumers for the remainder of that calendar year. This portal will facilitate Pratter expanding its medical cost database across the country. It will help medical facilities be in compliance with medical cost transparency laws. Most importantly, [www.pratter.us](http://www.pratter.us) will help health care consumers have access to specific medical costs that they have a right to know *before* they receive their care.

**About Pratter**

Pratter was formed in 2014, and is owned by Bill Hennessey, MD, Rich Kozakiewicz, MD, and Jodi Forlizzi. For more information, please visit [www.pratter.us](http://www.pratter.us).

**Contact**

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