For Immediate Release

Milliman report on U.S. organ and tissue transplants projects 11% rise in average annual cost in 2020

Triennial report examines utilization and billed charges, along with emerging innovations associated with single- and multiple-organ and tissue transplants

Seattle – February 19, 2020 – Milliman, Inc., a premier global consulting and actuarial firm, today released the 2020 edition of its triennial report on the estimated costs of U.S. organ and tissue transplants. The report summarizes average annual costs per member per month (PMPM), including utilization and billed charges, related to the 30 days prior through 180 days after transplant admission for organ and tissue transplants. This includes single-organ transplants such as heart, intestine, kidney, liver, lung, and pancreas, and a number of multiple-organ transplants; tissue transplants include bone marrow and cornea.

While the findings vary greatly by transplant and population type, the study found that for all combined organ and tissue transplants, per member costs based on billed charges saw an average annual increase of 11% for those under age 65, and 10.5% for those age 65 and over when compared to the 2017 report. The analysis also examined trends in hospital lengths of stay, average waiting times for organs, and changes in survival rates between our 2017 and 2020 reports, with results varying by transplant.

New this year, the report also explores emerging innovations and issues in the areas of organ viability and availability, such as the use of bioengineering, xenotransplantation, and anti-Hepatitis C drugs to combat shortages and growing waitlists.

“There are a number of scientific and policy initiatives geared at improving the availability of and access to much-needed organ and tissue transplants,” said Nick Ortner, a consulting actuary with Milliman and co-author of the study. “As new technologies emerge, Milliman’s research will continue to be an important tool for physicians, insurers, and the public to better understand the utilization, billed charges, and related trends associated with this vital healthcare service.”


About Milliman

Milliman is among the world’s largest providers of actuarial and related products and services. The firm has consulting practices in healthcare, property & casualty insurance, life insurance and financial services, and employee benefits. Founded in 1947, Milliman is an independent firm with offices in major cities around the globe. For further information, visit milliman.com.

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