Town Talk.

Alexandria hospitals fail to comply with price transparency law, patient advocates say



Melissa Gregory Alexandria Town Talk

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Alexandria's two hospitals are failing to comply with a federal law that requires them to post information about their pricing online, according to a patients' rights group.

The group, <u>Patient Rights Advocate</u>, released its Semi-Annual Hospital Price Transparency Compliance Report on Feb. 6. It rates hospitals acroiss the U.S. by various categories and considers a hospital non-compliant if it doesn't meet one in particular, even if it is compliant in other categories.

In an August 2022 USA Today story, a Johns Hopkins University professor who is an expert in health-care pricing said CMS isn't sending a strong enough signal that they take non-compliance seriously.

"The hospitals are taking their cue from CMS," said Ge Bai. "They are thinking, 'How likely is (CMS) going to pick me?' "