

# Bundled payment

Bundled payment, also known as episode-based payment, episode payment, episode-of-care payment, case rate, evidence-based case rate, global bundled payment, global payment, package pricing, or packaged pricing, is defined as the [reimbursement](#) of Healthcare providers (such as hospitals and physicians) “on the basis of expected costs for clinically-defined episodes of care.

It has been described as “a middle ground” between fee-for-service reimbursement (in which providers are paid for each service rendered to a patient) and capitation (in which providers are paid a “lump sum” per patient regardless of how many services the patient receives).

Bundled payments have been proposed in the [Healthcare reform](#) debate in the [United States](#) as a strategy for reducing Healthcare costs, especially during the Obama administration.

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Salas-Vega et al. sought to distinguish among the clinical and nonclinical drivers of patient [length of stay](#) (LOS) in the hospital following elective [lumbar laminectomy](#)-a common [spinal surgery](#) that may be reimbursed using bundled [payments](#)-and to understand their relationships with [patient outcomes](#) and [costs](#).

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