



NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL

Interpreting NHC Fair-Market Value (FMV) Calculator Results

The NHC Fair-Market Value (FMV) Calculator is a tool to assist your organization in identifying appropriate compensation for a patient, caregiver, or advocacy organization to participate in a patient engagement activity. The compensation rates are based on a wide variety of data inputs, as described in our [“FMV Hourly Rate Methodology”](#) document. Since patient engagement is an evolving field and the Calculator is intended to accommodate engagement activities for a broad range of stakeholders, needs, geographic regions, and other factors; the output is presented as a range – not one exact number.

This document describes some of the factors you may wish to consider as you are determining the specific FMV rate for a specific engagement activity from the offered range.

Considerations to Interpreting FMV Compensation Results

Issues you will want to consider in making choices *within an FMV range* include:

- Risk of liability (e.g., legal or financial) or stress from participating in engagement (e.g., member of a Data and Safety Monitoring Board)
- Wages lost (e.g., time off of work for hourly workers who might not otherwise participate and might impact the representative recruitment of a target population) and should be considered on a case by case basis
- Special caregiving accommodations needed for a dependent (e.g., childcare, eldercare, or other)
- Size of patient organization (e.g., very large organizations may have more staff with more staffing layers at a wide range of salary levels)
- Urgency (e.g., a very short time to prepare, create something, or complete a deadline for an activity)
- Geographic location (e.g., cost of living is much higher/lower)

In alignment with our “Principles for Compensating for Patient Engagement Activities”, compensation should not differ largely for participants with the same expertise performing the same activity in the same location.

Considerations for FMV Travel Reimbursement

The individual being engaged may have additional requirements that make travel (and thus travel reimbursement) more complex, for example:

- A care partner or family member must accompany them for health reasons
- A service animal must accompany them
- Additional travel time is needed due to health accommodations
- Accompanying medical equipment is required
- Special dietary requirements must be met