Why regional hospital prices are higher

parts of the state, a new soup-shows. But they are not out of line with the prices of other goods and ser-vices in the area, according to a study just released by the Southeast Michigan Hospital Council and Pub-lic Sector Consultants Inc. The study found that hospital prices in Michigan are determined the same way as the prices of other goods and services in geographical areas. Hospitals say they have little or no control over the prices they charged.

charged.

"WE KNEW that hospital prices were different between the eight regions, and we wanted to see if other goods and services experienced the same type of price variations," says bonald P. Potter, president of the council, which is headquartered in Southfield.

"The study proved the theory to be true. It demonstrated that regional economic factors affect hospital prices and the prices of other goods and services in much the same way."

"When looking at the prices of other goods and services in metropolitan Detroit and surrounding counties, the study found that 14 of a litems were higher than the state average," says Potter. "And nolably, nine of the indicators were priced a higher percentage above the state average than were hospital prices."

THE STUDY, "The Effects of Re-

THE STUDY. "The Effects of Regional Economies on the Prices of Goods and Services in Michigan," is an attempt to examine geographical variations in prices of hospital services in relation to the variations in prices of other goods and services. The state was analyzed according to eight geographical regions: southeast, south central, southwest, west central, greater Filint, east central, north central and Upper Peninsula.

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Price Above/Below Avg. State Price

Prices of goods and services in southeastern Michigan are 22 percent higher than the state average, while hospital prices are 18 percent higher, according to a study released by the Southeast Michigan Hospital Council.

The relative cost of living in each of the eight regions was estimated based on the prices of 16 goods and services collectively representing 60 percent of the expenditures for the average consumer.

Other findings include:

Variations between southeast-ern Michigan hospital prices and the

Health series runs in March

The Oakland County Health Divi-sion will hold a series of four weekly classes for individuals who are con-cerned with helping their parents, aging relatives and/or friends main-tain independent living. Information will be offered on physical and psychological aspects of aging, safe use of drugs, commu-nication difficulties, availability of community resources and alterna-tives in care and housing.

The classes offer an opportunity to share experiences, ask questions and explore alternatives when advancing age creates special concerns and problems for families.

The series will be held 7-9 pm. on four Tuesdays in March at the Health Division, 27725 Greenfled, There is no charge, but pre-registration is required. Call the health office at 424-7090 to register.

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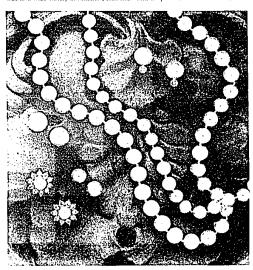
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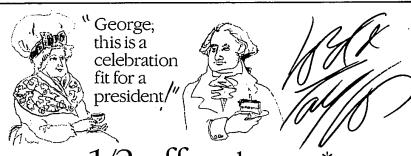
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