

consumer action

Education and advocacy since 1971

Survey of Medical Loans

June 2014

Consumer Action
www.consumer-action.org

© Consumer Action

Company	American HealthCare Lending (medical loan broker)	LightStream AnythingLoan (SunTrust Bank)
URL	http://www.americanhealthcarelending.com/	https://www.lightstream.com/
Treatments and procedures covered	Dental procedures, hospital bills, behavioral and mental health services, fertility procedures, cosmetic and plastic surgeries, vision care, bariatric surgery, neurosurgery and ambulatory services	AnythingLoan can be used for most any purpose except to fund or refinance college or post-secondary education expenses.
Interest rates	0% promotional offers for 6 or 12 months only for some dental procedures, with a deferred interest rate of 28.99% once promotion expires; installment loans on medical procedures, with rates of 5.99% - 25%, no deferred interest, for up to seven years (for loans bigger than \$10k), depending on credit history	Interest rates up to 9.99%, depending on the size of the loan and its terms; fixed-rate installment loans advertised as low as 1.99% online when borrower agrees to automatic loan payments deducted directly from a checking account
Credit limit and fees	\$2,000 - \$100,000; no fees	\$100,000
Downpayment?	No	No
Terms of loan/months for repayment	36-, 60-, 72- and 84-month loans	Loans of \$25,000 or more can last up to 84 months; loans \$10,000 to \$25,000, up to 72 months; under \$10,000, up to 60 months
How to qualify	Minimum 640 credit score; below 50% debt-to-income ratio, or co-signer needed	Borrowers need "excellent and substantial credit," including five or more years of significant credit history, excellent payment history, no delinquencies or other problems repaying debt obligations and a stable income.
Other information	All loans must be used with in-network providers. Once approved, borrower will learn which lenders and rates they qualify for.	The website's online tool to calculate interest rates shows differences in rate based on intended use of loan.

This information was accurate as of June 6, 2014. See lender website for latest loan information. You are prohibited from using Consumer Action's name or any reference to its surveys in advertising or for any other commercial purpose.

Company	Med Loan Finance (medical loan broker)	United Medical Credit
URL	http://www.medloanfinance.com/	http://www.unitedmedicalcredit.com/
Treatments and procedures covered	Cosmetic surgery, fertility treatments, bariatric procedures, weight loss, dental, LASIK/vision, dermatology, hair transplant, hospital, insurance co-payments, adoption, funerals and medical tourism	General health care costs, cosmetic surgeries, dental, vision and hearing aid costs
Interest rates	0% up to 18 months, otherwise 9.99% - 22.9%, non-deferred interest; some lenders offer an interest rebate for the first 12 months of the loan for borrowers who pay the loan off in full within the year	Rates from 5.9% - 17.9% APR; 0% promotional rates are also available for the first 12 months of a loan; once promotional period ends, deferred interest rate of 5.9% - 17.9% applies
Credit limit and fees	\$500 - \$100,000; a one-time fee starts at \$99.00 for loans under \$20,000, and goes up to \$1,995 on loans of \$20,000 or more. Fees are non-refundable.	\$35,000 loan limit per contract, but borrowers can try to qualify for two contracts at same time, totaling up to \$50,000
Downpayment?	No	No, but borrowers may need to make first monthly loan payment on day one of financing
Terms of loan/months for repayment	24-, 36-, 48- and 60-month loans	Up to 60 months for one contract
How to qualify	Minimum 600 credit score and earnings of \$30,000 a year	A minimum credit score of about 600 is needed for 0% promotional rates. Agents say they also look at applicant's recent payment history and income.
Other information	This broker's site has a monthly loan payment chart to compare payments on 24-, 36-, 48- and 60-month loans. Agents say lenders may counter-offer if exact loan request cannot be met.	Agents say they try to qualify applicants for 0% promotional rates even with credit scores below 600.

This information was accurate as of June 6, 2014. See lender website for latest loan information.

You are prohibited from using Consumer Action's name or any reference to its surveys in advertising or for any other commercial purpose.