



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

Health Freedom Minute

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Will Mandated Transparency Lead to Price Controls?

In late April, the federal government issued a proposed rule to require hospitals to publish online a list of their charges. The ACA already mandates this but it's not been enforced. Posting charges may sound good but should the government mandate it and which prices should be listed? Chargemaster, discounted or charity prices?

Will mandated posting actually reduce costs? According to a study by the Health Care Cost Institute "less than 7% of total U.S. health care spending stems from services for which patients truly can comparison shop." So probably not. But could mandated posting lead to government price controls? Entirely possible.

"CMS proposal for hospitals to publish prices raises tricky issues,"

Harris Meyer, Modern Healthcare, April 25, 2018:

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20180425/NEWS/180429939/cms-proposal-for-hospitals-to-publish-prices-raises-tricky-issues>

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens' Council for Health Freedom.

*The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 47 states:
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