



December 15, 2017

Indian Health Service Shows Problems of Socialized Medicine

Many people look overseas or across our northern border to point out the dangers of socialized medicine. But check out the Indian Health Service.

In 2016 investigators found “lack of staffing, improper training, vacancies in leadership and outdated facilities.” Patients were suffering and dying. Twenty-eight hospitals are run directly by the Indian Health Service, a federal health program for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Employees told investigators that they were “struggling to meet” the basic needs of patients. In 2017, several of these hospitals were kicked out of Medicare, which is a major source of funding.

Bottom line? Public hospitals funded by the government are no substitute for hospitals that must compete for patients and dollars based on quality.

“Indian Hospital Agency Stumbles,” Christopher Weaver and Dan Frosch, The Wall Street Journal, November 17, 2017.

[“Investigation confirms problems at Indian Health Service facilities,”](#) indianz, October 7, 2016.

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

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