



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

Health Freedom Minute

November 21, 2022

Are Patients Harmed by ACA Readmission Penalties?

The Affordable Care Act penalizes hospitals whose Medicare patients are readmitted more often. If patients come back within 30 days, future payments to the hospital can be cut up to 3 percent per Medicare payment for the next year. On November 1, 2022, Medicare penalized nearly 2,300 hospitals – almost half.

The penalties will save Medicare \$320 million, but what's this mean for Medicare patients? Some hospitals have developed programs to keep them from being readmitted, such as setting up home monitoring instead. Some patients likely stayed in the emergency room for hours, even days, under observation. The pressure is on to keep Medicare patients out of the hospital, even though it might be better for them to be readmitted.

“Medicare Fines for High Hospital Readmissions Drop, but Nearly 2,300 Facilities Are Still Penalized,” Jordan Rau, KHN, November 1, 2022:

<https://bit.ly/3WRPcpa>

“CMS penalizes 2,273 hospitals for high readmissions: 6 things to know,” Nathan Tucker, Becker's Hospital CFO Report, November 1, 2022:

<https://bit.ly/3NRZ6mG>

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President and Co-founder
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*The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 48 states:
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