23 Scary Words in Obamacare

Will your doctor be blacklisted? There are 23 words in Obamacare that haven’t gotten much attention -- but should scare every doctor and every patient.

Obamacare allows the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to blacklist any physician or other practitioner that doesn’t practice health care the way the government wants health care practiced. Here is what the law says under Section 1311(h) titled “QUALITY IMPROVEMENT”: “Beginning on January 1, 2015, a qualified health plan may contract with...

(B) a health care provider only if such provider implements such mechanisms to improve health care quality as the Secretary may by regulation require.” [Emphasis added.]

If the Secretary of HHS decides that a provider isn’t implementing “such mechanisms to improve health care quality,” POOF! That doctor, that dentist, that chiropractor, or any other clinician can be shut down, kicked completely out of the health insurance system. One day they could see 30 patients. The next day, zero.

What kind of mechanisms might these be? Required “mechanisms to improve health care quality” could include requirements to comply with government-issued treatment protocols, use the cheapest treatments and the oldest medications, use global budgets to ration care, limit care for elderly and disabled, and weigh the individual patient’s needs against the needs of government-defined “populations.”

These mechanisms could include data reporting requirements, using a computerized medical record accessible to the government, collecting race, ethnic, gender and sexual orientation data, or implementing the intrusive ICD-10 diagnosis treatment coding system, which will document in code a detailed profile of each patient’s health. The “mechanisms” will likely have nothing to do with actual quality of care.

Congressman Phil Gingrey (R-GA) is focused on repealing these 23 words. As a physician, he sees the danger to doctors and patients. On August 2, 2012, he introduced the SCOPE Act, H.R. 6320. The Safeguarding Care of Patients Everywhere Act repeals these 23 words. His bill has 17 co-sponsors.

Just last week, a Senate SCOPE Act was introduced by four physicians. U.S. Senators Tom Coburn, M.D. (R-OK), John Barrasso, M.D. (R-WY), John Boozman, O.D. (R-AR), and Rand Paul M.D. (R-KY) introduced S.2278 to repeal these 23 scary words. Senator Tom Coburn says,

“A political appointee now has full discretion to determine what constitutes as ‘quality’ care, despite what is actually best for an individual patient. Allowing an
unelected bureaucrat to have unilateral power to interfere with the physician-patient relationship is unprecedented."

**ACTION ITEMS:** Ask your member of Congress and your U.S. Senator to co-sponsor the SCOPE Act bills. And join today with CCHF to stop Obamacare -- all 425,116 words of the law. Your donation today of $25, $75, $150 or more will help us continue our work to make sure America is free from the grip of Obamacare.

Working with you to keep patients and doctors in control,

Twila Brase, RN, PHN
President and Co-founder
CCHFREEDOM.ORG

**Note:** the CCHF Health Freedom eNews will be taking a break next week. We'll be back in two weeks!