January 27, 2020

Hospital Mergers Mean Worse Care, Higher Costs

Obamacare and the electronic health record mandate have led to hospital mergers. Hospitals say this improves care and reduces costs, but a study of 246 hospitals says not true. Performance before and after mergers was compared. Findings include worsening care and little impact on readmissions or death rates.

Researchers say they found "no evidence" of quality improvement. Instead, they agree with other studies that found a highly concentrated hospital market "associated with worsening patient experiences." Furthermore, an earlier study found prices at monopoly hospitals 12 percent higher than those with four or more rivals. This is what happens when government interferes and issues mandates.

"No Quality of Care Benefit from Hospital Acquisitions, Study Finds," Jacqueline LaPointe, RevCycle Intelligence, January 2, 2020: https://bit.ly/2GppyC8

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