



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

# Health Freedom Minute

February 28, 2019

## Blame Hospitals Not Doctors

Blame hospitals, not doctors. for high prices. A new report finds the growth in hospital prices substantially higher than the growth in physician prices. The researchers looked at actual negotiated prices paid by insurers over a seven-year period.

For inpatient care, researchers found that these negotiated hospital prices rose 42 percent while physician prices rose only 18 percent. For hospital-based outpatient care, hospital prices rose 25 percent while physician prices rose only 6 percent.

Hospitals are consolidating into ever-larger systems, leaving fewer and fewer competitors and letting them charge sky-high prices for care.

**“Hospital Prices Grew Substantially Faster Than Physician Prices For Hospital-Based Care in 2007 - 2014.”** Zack Cooper et al, Health Affairs, February 2019:  
<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05424?journalCode=hlthaff>

**“Hospital Prices, Not Physicians, Drive Cost Growth, Health Affairs Says,”**  
Shannon Muchmore, Healthcare Dive, February 5, 2019:  
<https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/hospital-prices-not-physicians-drive-cost-growth-health-affairs-says/547714/>

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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afternoons on American Family Radio, and daily on the CSN network  
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