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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:

“Hospital Prices, Not Physicians, Drive Cost Growth, Health Affairs Says,” Shannon Muchmore, Healthcare Dive, February 5, 2019:

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

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