



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

Health Freedom Minute

May 1, 2019

Medicare Encourages Clinics to Become Mini-HMOs

Medicare has launched a payment program that puts doctors in conflict of interest with patients. Starting in 2020, primary care doctors can voluntarily assume financial risk for the care of Medicare patients. Essentially, these clinics become health plans. I call them Medicare's "mini-HMOs."

Medicare will pay clinics a monthly lump sum to cover part or all of patient care. Doctors must decide how and on whom to spend the money. And if they save enough money, they could receive financial rewards. Doctors can do this without patient consent even though it could cause doctors to view complex patients as financial burdens. Isn't it time you found a doctor in The Wedge? Go to jointhewedge.com.

"CMS Launches New Data-Driven Primary Care Payment Models,"

Greg Slabodkin, Health Data Management, April 23, 2019:

<https://www.healthdatamanagement.com/news/cms-launches-new-data-driven-primary-care-payment-models>

"Delivering Value-Based Transformation in Primary Care," Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, n.d.:

<https://innovation.cms.gov/Files/x/primary-cares-initiative-onepager.pdf>

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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