



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

Health Freedom Minute

May 20, 2019

Seniors Need Choice, Not Auto-Enrollment

The Trump administration may want to auto-enroll senior citizens into Medicare Advantage. If implemented, seniors would be put in Medicare HMOs without their consent. If they wanted to switch to Original Medicare, where they can see any doctor anywhere, the burden would be on them.

Auto-enrollment is a bad idea. Medicare Advantage HMOs often deny access to needed care. If their denials are appealed, these HMOs overturn the denial 75 percent of the time—but only one percent of denials are appealed. The federal report says the process may be difficult for critically ill patients. Seniors need choice, not auto-enrollment.

“How the Trump Administration is Reforming Medicare,” John C. Goodman, Lawrence J. Wedekind, Health Affairs, May 3, 2019:

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20190501.529581/full/>

“Medicare Advantage Appeal Outcomes and Audit Findings Raise Concerns About Service and Payment Denials,” Daniel R. Levinson, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, September 2018:

<https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-09-16-00410.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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