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**Why are Tax-Exempt Hospitals Suing Patients?**

According to a study, tax-exempt hospitals in Virginia, which receive tax breaks because of their charitable non-profit status, are more likely to sue patients who can’t pay than hospitals that are for-profit. Many patients unexpectedly find their wages garnished for years.

In 2017, tax-exempt Virginia hospitals filed 20,000 lawsuits against patients for unpaid debt. One hospital gives the uninsured a 30 percent discount. But I'll bet health plans and government get far steeper discounts. Are hospitals shifting the cost of operations onto those who most need charity while avoiding paying taxes by claiming to be charitable?