



Citizens' Council for Health Freedom

Health Freedom Minute

September 20, 2019

ACA Causes Hospital Prices Increases

The cost of care is rising, mostly due to hospital charges. For example, from 2013 to 2017 the hospital charges for a vaginal birth increased by six percent while the doctor's charges for that birth only increased two percent. Meanwhile, hospital charges for an appendectomy increased 7.5 percent, while physician charges to remove the appendix have not increased at all.

There's a lot of blame to throw around on rising prices for care and coverage, but much of it should be directed at Congress and the consolidation caused by the Affordable Care Act. The Act forced many insurers and hospitals out of business or into mergers, leaving the biggest players with insufficient competition and the freedom to raise prices.

"Hospital Care is Getting More Expensive," Caitlin Owens, Vitals, Axios, August 12, 2019: <https://bit.ly/2YSycox>

"Confronting the High Cost of Hospital Prices," UnitedHealth Group, August 12, 2019: <https://bit.ly/33E2v13>

"UnitedHealth Q2 Revenue Growth Fueled by Medicare, Optum," Rebecca Pifer, Healthcare Dive, July 18, 2019: <https://bit.ly/2PfVdxx>

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

*The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 47 states:
Mornings M-Th at AM1280 (The Patriot) in MN and 91.5 AM WHKC (FreedomFM) in OH,
afternoons on American Family Radio, and daily on the CSN network
and Bott Radio Network.*