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Medicare Rations Care

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase, president of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

Medicare rations care. Many think this is not true, but it is. Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a former official at the Medicare administration, says Medicare rations care in “Byzantine and arbitrary ways.” For instance, Medicare makes national coverage decisions that define who is and is not eligible for new and often expensive treatments. You and your doctor do not decide.

In 2008, Medicare denied new treatments or expanded access to current treatments in 53% of the applications for approval. Another 29% were allowed on only a limited basis. That’s a total of 82% of applications denied or limited. Only 18% of applications for new and improved care were fully approved.

Appeals to Medicare’s decisions take about 21 months. You could die by then.

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