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**Why You and Your Doctor Need a Private Contract**

When you go to the doctor, treatment decisions may not be based on your needs or your doctor’s best judgement. In the world of government programs, health plans, computerized treatment protocols, and electronic health record tracking systems, outsiders often make the rules.

Your private medical data is being used against your doctor if your doctor doesn’t comply with certain practices. Your data is used to “see how many doctors have prescribed low-value tests or treatment.” Doctors who give so-called “low-value” care will be penalized. Who defines “low-value”? Not you, but you may experience the pain of the decision. This is why you and your doctor should have a private contract, not an insurance contract.