August 13, 2018

**Does Your Doctor Have a Conflict of Interest With You?**

In my new book, *Big Brother in the Exam Room*, I write about something called an ACO, the Accountable Care Organization established by the Affordable Care Act. ACOs have been called HMOs on steroids. There are more than 900 of them covering 32 million people.

The ACO turns your doctor into your insurer. A hospital-controlled ACO hires physicians as employees. Patients are assigned to the ACO using certain criteria. Government and health plans pay an annual amount of money to the ACO for all care given to these patients. Thus, the financial risk is transferred to the hospitals and doctors. If you’re an expensive patient, your doctor may have a conflict of interest with you.