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Hospitals Tell Doctors How to Practice

Standardized medical care is coming. You are not standard, but hospitals, health plans and government are working hard to make sure that’s the way you’re treated. The Wall Street Journal reports that hospitals are redesigning their computer systems to make sure doctors are limited in their medical decisions, regardless of what treatment is best for you. This is considered a cost-control strategy.

Some hospitals are making it all but impossible for doctors to stray from the hospital’s preferred treatment protocols. As one doctor told me, “If it’s not in the computer, I can’t do it.” Next time your doctor orders something ask him if that’s the best treatment for you, or the only one the hospital’s computer system will allow.
