Chicanery means the use of trickery to achieve a political, financial, or legal purpose. Government officials do chicanery well. As do many politicians. I thought of chicanery when I heard the head of the Medicare Administration say, “We have to get the hearts and minds of physicians back. I think we’ve lost them.”

He was talking about how the government-imposed electronic health record and it’s “meaningful use” requirements for data collection and government reporting have demoralized physicians. But then he tweeted that Medicare will replace the hated system with another soon-to-be hated system he called “better.” This is pure chicanery. His true intent is to control doctor’s hearts and minds, not to get them back.

“Slavitt: Meaningful Use is all but dead.” Neil Versel, MedCityNews, January 12, 2016.