Will Doctors Be Paid to Ration Care?

Obamacare is moving away from paying doctors for the care they provide. The law’s Accountable Care Organization, or ACO, is typically a hospital with employed or contracted physicians responsible for a group of Medicare patients enrolled into the ACO without their consent. Most don’t even know.

Medicare pays the ACO an annual lump-sum amount for all care provided for 12 months. No more money will be paid no matter how sick the group of patients. At the end of the year, if there is money left over, the ACO hospital and doctors get to keep part of it. But if there are no savings, they may owe money to Medicare. Is this a roundabout way of paying doctors to ration health care?