More Bricks With Less Straw for Doctors

Imagine being a physician. You do three surgeries starting at 7:00 a.m. You get to the office at 1:00. Every 8 minutes there’s a new patient for the next four hours. In between you have to think, click data into the computer, check lab results, consult with other doctors, check in on your surgical patients, talk with your nurse about patients who’ve called in with questions, and not make a mistake.

Then the federal government issues a 962-page proposed rule to describe the new way you’ll get paid. You’ll no longer be paid for your services or your time or your thinking skills. You’ll get paid for your “value” as defined by the government. That’s what happened on April 27th. Ask your doctor how it will impact your care.

“Medicare Program; Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Model (APM) Incentive under the Physician Fee Schedule, and Criteria for Physician-Focused Payment Models; Proposed Rule.” Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, (pre-publication copy), CMS-5517-P), Regulations.gov, April 27, 2016. (Scheduled for May 9 publication on the Federal Register)