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What's the Real Goal of P4P

Medicare gives bonuses to doctors who practice medicine the government way. Now various studies show these pay-for-performance initiatives fail to improve mortality or quality of care.

One Canadian study found that incentives aimed at getting doctors to follow certain protocols with every diabetic patient did not work. Most doctors didn’t even try to get the bonus. Another study of 252 American hospitals showed no improvement in outcomes. Yet these bonus programs which influence medical decisions continue to grow. Why? Perhaps better patient care is not the goal. Maybe the goal is simply to put doctors under the controlling hand of government.