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Bribing Cancer Doctors

If you have cancer, your doctor may soon be paid more if they don’t individualize your care. As The Wall Street Journal reports, “Insurers are…push[ing] oncologists to adhere to standardized treatment guidelines.” This means one-size-fits-all protocols that may ration your care.

On July 1st, one insurer, Wellpoint, begins offering cancer doctors $350 per month for each patient who is on the insurer’s treatment regimen. These are bribes. One concerned doctor said, “We generally don’t like to practice by insurance company, we practice by patient.” So if you’re receiving treatment, ask your doctors if they’re getting extra money to follow the insurer’s treatment guidelines instead of their own treatment plans.