August 13, 2014

Dangerous Government Interference in Care

When government tells doctors how to practice medicine, patients are harmed. When Congress decreed that doctors should be measured, they focused on blood sugar and blood pressure levels. There’s no agreed upon best level for different types of patients, but after government set one-size-fits-all levels, clinics aggressively treated high blood pressure and high blood sugar to avoid financial penalties.

Now a study shows that patients whose “blood pressure is reduced below optimal levels face increased risks for death or kidney failure.” The study’s lead author says patients need to be treated based on individual risks. Go figure. That’s what doctors did until government threatened them with financial penalties for doing so.