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Help Doctors Cut Puppeteer Strings

Have you heard about pay for performance? It sounds good, but it’s dangerous. Doctors who perform according to government criteria get a bigger piece of the Medicare payment pie. Doctors who don’t, or who can’t make the data look as good, get less. As a result, many doctors are becoming more like puppets under government and health plan puppeteers who determine their income.

But now The New York Times says pay for performance doesn’t work. Study after study proves it’s a failure. Most of the performance measurements are affected by income, housing and education, which are out of the doctor’s control. Don’t expect the controlling puppeteers to put down the strings voluntarily. Do what you can to help your doctor cut those strings.