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When Physicians Become Hospital Employees

In 2003, 29 percent of hospitals employed physicians. Nine years later, the number jumped to 42 percent. Certain unaffordable Obamacare mandates, like the electronic health record, have led many doctors to choose employment rather than freedom.

How does turning doctors into employees impact care? A recent study concludes that this change has not led to any measurable improvement in four quality-of-care metrics.

But what’s the impact on costs? As hospitals have acquired doctor’s practices, the price for outpatient services has risen sharply. Thus, consolidation under Obamacare has led to less freedom for doctors and higher prices for patients.

“Changes in Hospital-Physician Affiliations in U.S. Hospitals and Their Effect on Quality of Care,” Kirstin W. Scott, MPhil, PhD et al, Annals of Internal Medicine, September 20, 2016.


Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

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