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Patient Analysis Algorithm

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase, president of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

The Heritage Provider Network in California, is offering $3 million dollars for the creation of an algorithm – a formula -- to predict when people need hospitalization. This data-mining competition ends in two years.

Contest participants will receive “anonymized” health insurance-claims data to use to predict how many days a patient is likely to spend in the hospital over the next year.

The provider network, made up of 32,000 doctors, clearly intend to conduct predictive analytics of patients. The goal, according to one executive, is to “identify people who can benefit from additional services.”

Well, maybe. But I think the plan will intrude on private lives. This is the wrong direction. People need personal financial incentives for change, not outside analysis and interference.

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