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Should Medicare Say No?

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

Should Medicare say ‘No’? Medicare paid $100 million for colonoscopies, 40 percent of them on patients over age 75. $50 million dollars was paid for prostate cancer screening in men over age 75 and cervical cancer screening in women over age 65 despite the U.S. preventive services task force recommendations against them.

Our taxes pay for unnecessary care because “Medicare’s reimbursement procedures are not sophisticated enough to track the appropriateness of care provided,” writes Dr. Rita Redberg in The New York Times.

Redberg has a point but should Medicare be allowed to control medical decisions according to their definition of appropriateness? Wouldn’t it be better if citizens could opt out of Medicare and use private insurance and cash to make their own decisions?

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“Medicare solution stares us in the face, and we glower back,” Dr. Rita F. Redberg, Star Tribune (The New York Times), May 27, 2011.

The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 37 states: Mornings M-Th at AM1280 (The Patriot) in MN and 91.5 AM WHKC (FreedomFM) in OH and afternoons on American Family Radio.