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Why Did Obama Say No to Doctor-Owned Hospitals?

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

A new study finds that the best hospitals are run by physicians, not managers. The Institute for the Study of Labor in Germany, looked at top-performing hospitals in cancer, digestive disorders, and heart surgery. They found that physician-run hospitals had a 25% higher quality score, compared to those run by nonclinical CEOs.

Only 235 of America’s 6,500 hospitals are run by doctors. While we could quibble over the study’s definition of quality, there’s a more interesting correlation with Obamacare. The federal reform law prohibits the construction or expansion of physician-owned hospitals.

While some exemptions are now proposed to the prohibition, it would appear that quality of care in hospitals is not what the Obama Administration ordered.

Send me a comment or a question at healthfreedomminute.net.

"Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment; Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment; Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Programs; Physician Self-Referral; and Provider Agreement Regulations on Patient Notification Requirements," RIN 0938-AQ26, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS, July 2011.