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The Quiet Takeover

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

When you go to the doctor, who do you want the doctor to be thinking about? You, your insurer or, in a new twist, their own employer?

There’s a quiet takeover happening across the country. Insurance companies are buying hospitals and insurance companies are buying physician groups. This could mean that patient-centered care may become less available.

In short, the one who pays your hospital and clinic bills may also be the one signing your doctor’s paycheck. It’s been called a “national landgrab over primary physicians.” You might want to call it a serious threat. Insurers will not only be able to say no to paying for the care your doctor orders, they may be able to fire your doctor when he gives it anyway.

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