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Debt Ceiling Sequestration Threatens Rations

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

The federal debt ceiling agreement is premised on something called sequestration, which means seizing property until a debt is paid. Sequestration means there must be cuts in spending equal to the $1.2 to 1.5 trillion increase in the debt ceiling. This includes cuts to Medicare. A Congressional Committee must recommend cuts that equal the increase in the debt limit. However, if the committee cannot agree or its recommendations are not passed, sequestration is required.

Medicare can be cut but Medicare law on sequestration forbids charging patients more. The cuts must be to providers. The law says providers must accept reduced payments as payment in full. This gives doctors one more reason to leave Medicare and it shows patients how vulnerable they are in government-run health care.

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