

A red rectangular sign with the words "ON AIR" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

Health Freedom Minute

June 11, 2025

STARK CONTRAST: Health Plans Win – Doctors Lose

Health care has hypocrisies. For example, hospitals deemed tax-exempt, charitable non-profits are often the ones most likely to sue patients who cannot pay for the care they received. Health care systems claim they protect your privacy, but they share it liberally.

Then there's the federal Stark Law. Doctors are not allowed to refer patients to a facility they have a financial interest in. A California system has to pay \$32 million for violating Stark.

Yet health plans can own hospitals and doctors and send patients to their own facilities without violating Stark. Thus, the Stark Law prohibits doctors from doing what health plans do all the time when they insist you stay in-network or pay more. Stark enriches health plans and hurts doctors.

“California system, physician group to pay \$32M for Stark law allegations,” Patsy Newitt, Becker's ASC Review, May 15, 2025:
https://www.beckersasc.com/asc-coding-billing-and-collections/california-system-physician-group-to-pay-32m-for-stark-law-allegations/?origin=ASCE&utm_source=ASCE&utm_medium=email&utm_content=newsletter&oly_enc_id=8286C9282356A1S

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President and Co-founder
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*The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 48 states:
Mon-Fri on more than 870 radio stations nationwide*

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