

Government Health Care Erodes Privacy, Reduces Quality, Increases Costs



If our so-called leaders have their way, you will soon be able to drive your Government Motors (GM) automobile down to the government doctors office. Never mind that the government mandate for a "unique health identifier" eliminates privacy for your "confidential" medical records. Pay no attention to the fact that electronic medical records are covered by the Orwellian-named "medical privacy rule" that allows government officials and state-favored special interests to view your private medical records without your consent. Don't worry, government doesn't want to run auto companies, or health care. Government-approved health insurance is for your own good, and won't lead to price controls or limitations on the services you can receive from your doctor. Your doctor won't opt out of receiving government money by becoming a cash only office and leave you scrambling to find a new doctor. No, everything is just fine. Now get back in your Government Motors vehicle, drive down to the government doctor, and wait in line. The doctor will be with you as soon as possible.

Does the above sound appealing to you? If it does not, please consider supporting HR 2629 Coercion is Not Health Care Act. Here is what Representative Paul had to say about the bill:

With a faltering economy, and skyrocketing costs, healthcare continues to be a critical issue for all Americans. Unfortunately government encroachment into the doctor/patient relationship is poised to exacerbate our problems with healthcare.

As an OB/GYN with over 30 years of experience in private practice, I understand that one of the foundations of quality healthcare is the patient's confidence that all information shared with his or her healthcare provider will remain private. And yet, the Federal Government plans to undermine this trust with establishment of mandatory electronic medical records collections and "unique health identifier" numbers assigned to all Americans. Funding for this program was among the numerous provisions jammed into the stimulus bill rushed through Congress earlier this year. Electronic medical records that are part of the federal system will only receive the protection granted by the federal "medical privacy rule." This misnamed rule actually protects the ability of government officials and state-favored special interests to view private medical records without patient consent.

Aside from those concerns, the government's ability to protect medical records is highly questionable. After all, we are all familiar with cases where third parties obtained access to electronic veteran, tax, and other records because of errors made by federal bureaucrats. We should also consider the abuse of IRS records by administrations of both parties. What would happen if unscrupulous politicians gained the power to access their political enemies' electronic medical records?

For these reasons I have introduced the Protect Patients' and Physicians' Privacy Act, HR 2630, which allows patients and physicians to opt out of any federally mandated, created, or funded electronic medical records system. The bill also repeals sections of federal law establishing a "unique health identifier" and requires patient consent before any electronic medical records can be released to a 3rd party.

I have also introduced the [Coercion is Not Health Care](#) Act, HR 2629. This legislation forbids the federal government from forcing any American to purchase health insurance, or conditioning participation in any federal program on the purchase of health insurance. Forcing Americans to purchase government-approved health insurance is a back door approach to creating a government-controlled healthcare system. Congress would define what policies and coverage requirements satisfy their mandate. Does anyone then doubt that what conditions and treatments are covered would be determined by who has the most effective lobby? Or that Congress would be capable of writing a mandatory insurance policy that fits the unique needs of every individual in the United States?

With these conditions in place, I foresee the eventual imposition of price controls and limitations on what procedures and treatments that are covered. This will result in an increasing number of providers turning to "cash only" practices, making it difficult for those relying on the government-mandated insurance to find healthcare -- the exact opposite of the desired result! Consider the increasing number of physicians who are already withdrawing from the Medicare program because of the low reimbursement and constant bureaucratic harassment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Congress should put the American people back in charge of healthcare by expanding healthcare tax credits and deductions, increasing access to Health Savings Accounts, respecting privacy and the doctor/patient relationship. Further politicizing and bureaucratizing of healthcare will only increase costs and reduce quality, as demonstrated by most other countries with socialized medicine.

Listen to Government Health Care Erodes Privacy, Reduces Quality, Increases Costs

Posted by Terry Kinder in Blog at 16:13