Self-referral to limited-service hospitals: Bad for America’s health care system!

FACT Fax

Research shows self-referral leads to higher utilization and costs.

Patients of physicians referring to entities in which they had an investment interest – “self-referral” – were substantially more likely to receive referrals for imaging services:

- 54% more MRIs
- 27% more CT scans
- 37% more nuclear medicine scans
- 27% more echo cardiograms
- 22% more ultrasounds
- 22% more complex x-rays

Congress prohibited self-referral for a variety of services, but a small number of physician-owners are exploiting a loophole in this law that allows them to refer these services to hospitals they own. Congress put a moratorium on self-referral to new limited-service hospitals, set to expire this June.

CLOSE THE LOOPHOLE:
Make permanent the ban on physician self-referral to new limited-service hospitals.

Preserve Care
Promote Fair Competition
Prevent Conflict of Interest