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

FACT Fax

Research finds self-referral leads to more radiology tests and higher health care costs.

Congress banned self-referral for many services, including radiology. But certain physicians are exploiting a loophole and self-referring patients for inpatient and outpatient radiology to hospitals they own.

Patients of physicians in a position to profit from referrals:

- Were 4.0 to 4.5 more likely to have imaging exams than patients of physicians referring to independent radiologists.¹

  92% of physician-owned limited service hospitals have diagnostic radiology services.²

This raises cost and quality concerns!

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