New research finds self-referral to limited-service hospitals leads to increased utilization and higher insurance costs.

A study released last week by a Georgetown University researcher examined utilization patterns for the worker’s compensation population in Oklahoma City and Tulsa following the opening of three physician-owned limited service hospitals. This study found use rates climbed by up to nearly 1700% for common orthopedic procedures following the opening of these facilities.

By 2004, physician-owned facilities accounted for more than 78% of area volume for these procedures for this population.

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