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

FACT Fax

Not having an emergency department helps physician-owned limited-service hospitals be selective in which patients they serve.

Patients admitted through the emergency department are much more likely to be uninsured than those that are scheduled.

Percentage of Cases by Payer: Hospitals in Houston, TX 2002

- Scheduled Admissions
  - 2.5% Scheduled Admissions
  - 41.7% Medicare & Medicaid
  - 55.8% Third-party Reimbursement

- Emergency Admissions
  - 11.7% Uninsured
  - 52.1% Medicare & Medicaid
  - 36.2% Third-party Reimbursement

SOURCE: The Lewin Group and The American Hospital Association, TrendWatch Volume 6, Number 2.

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