

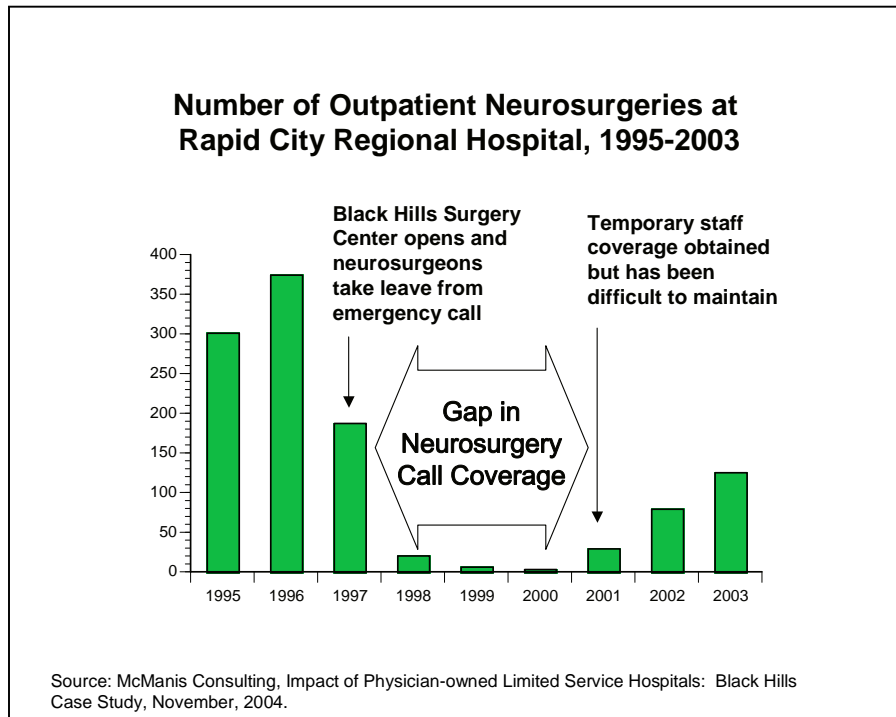


Self-referral to limited-service hospitals: Bad for America's health care system!

FACT Fax

When physician-owners drop emergency call, gaps in coverage can threaten patient access to care.

In Rapid City, South Dakota a physician-owned limited-service surgical hospital opened in 1997. Three of the community's four neurosurgeons—physician investors in the new facility—subsequently resigned from the full-service hospital, significantly reducing neurosurgeon coverage in the community's only emergency department.



CLOSE THE LOOPHOLE:

Make permanent the ban on physician self-referral to new limited-service hospitals.

