

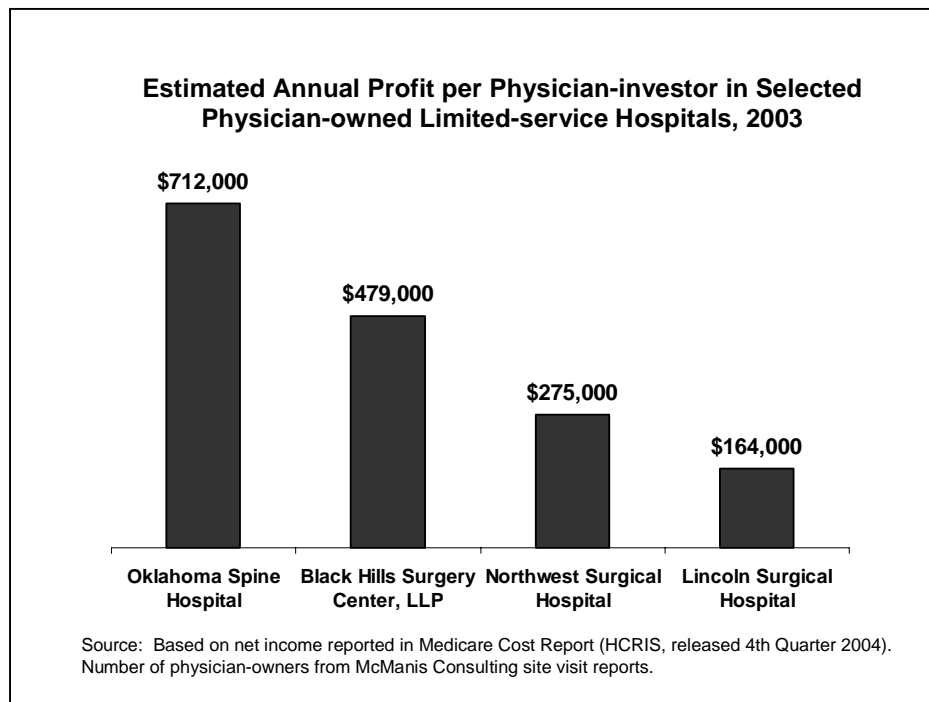


Self-referral to limited-service hospitals: Bad for America's health care system!

FACT Fax

It is illegal for a hospital to pay to induce physician referrals, yet physician-owned facilities do just that with impunity.

The federal fraud and abuse laws forbid health care facilities from offering financial inducements to physicians in exchange for patient referrals. Yet physician-owned limited-service hospitals are masking inducements to refer patients under the guise of ownership. The annual financial gain to physician-owners from self-referral can rise into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. *This is not about competition, it's about conflict of interest.*



CLOSE THE LOOPHOLE:

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

