

Estimate of the Situation

Critical Information for Critical Times, Edition of Wednesday, March 11, 2015



An Era's End

The impending demise of the Third Party Payer system that has defined and dominated American hospital and medical care for decades is a recurring theme here. In this issue, we're going to share a few quick facts demonstrating that its demise is not only imminent but already occurring before our eyes.

We want to extend special thanks to Anthony Wunsh, President and CEO of Medical Pay Solutions for graciously allowing us to share information he has collected in the course of his work with more than 30,000 providers, groups, and facilities nationwide. Mr.

Wunsh has been featured and published in national publications, such as *Forbes*, *Health Care Reform Magazine*, and *Medical Practice Magazine*. He also writes for the *Medical Pay Solutions* blog. Consider the evidence.

- Did you know that 79% of doctors do not take Medicaid patients, yet more than two-thirds of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" (PPACA) mandated sign ups are new Medicaid patients?
- Did you know 53% of Doctors do not accept Medicare patients and that a physician's office makes the equivalent of minimum wage for treating them?
- Did you know that 80% of the visits from Medicaid patients still take place in a hospital emergency room, the single most expensive source of care one can receive?
- Did you know that today 60% of all doctors now work for larger systems as employees? This is restricting access to care especially in the most vulnerable rural and economically depressed areas.
- Did you know that despite self-serving propaganda from CMS and others to the contrary, health care costs have risen at record rates since the PPACA was enacted in 2010? The first quarter of last year set a single quarter record for this increase. Hospital stays and over all patient encounters are down, due in part to re-admission penalties, yet the cost of care nationally went up from \$2.5 trillion in 2013 to \$ 2.7 trillion in 2014.
- Did you know that the mandated electronic health record (or EHR) has resulted in the additional expenditure of \$400 billion and created a new \$10 billion a year industry for support to create technology that still does not do what the end users need it to do?
- Did you know that the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" has driven premiums up more than 200%, driven patient out of pocket expense up 400%, reduced access to care, and led to the largest consolidation of physician practices in history as doctors leave independent private practice to join large systems?

I'll add one of my own. Did you know that the Medicare Trustees' 2014 annual reports admit that "Neither Medicare nor Social Security can sustain projected long-run program costs in full under currently scheduled financing, and legislative changes are necessary to avoid disruptive consequences for beneficiaries and taxpayers."? The Trustees' official projection of a 2030 Medicare crash date is based on the absurdly optimistic and impossible assumption that the PPACA is going to "save billions of Medicare dollars" over the next decade.

FJB



7667 N.W. Prairie View Road, Suite 204
Kansas City, Missouri 64151
(816) 587-2120
<http://bradyinc.com>