



# OBAMA'S EXPERIMENT ON ... SENIORS WITH MEDICARE

*If You're A Senior Citizen On Medicare, Here's How  
Government-Run Health Care Will Hurt You*

**WASHINGTON POST: "From the raw numbers, it appears seniors are the net losers under bills approved by three House committees ..."** (Ceci Connolly, "Seniors Remain Wary Of Health-Care Reform," [The Washington Post](#), 8/9/09)

## HERE'S WHAT YOU LOSE UNDER OBAMA'S GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE EXPERIMENT

**TRYING TO FIND A DOCTOR? Dems Admit Government-Run Health Care Could Force Doctors To Decline You.** "Rep. Eric Massa said tightening provider payments could lead to access problems for patients. 'We will force doctors to decline Medicare patients,' he said after a raucous town-hall meeting in Upstate New York. 'If we believe these savings are there, let's test the concept. But we can't hinge the entire funding of this bill on these not-yet-seen savings.'" (Ceci Connolly, "Seniors Remain Wary of Health-Care Reform," [The Washington Post](#), 8/9/09)

**SEARCHING FOR A BETTER HOSPITAL? Medicare Cuts Could Make Hospitals Refuse You.** "[L]awmakers are on track to approve across-the-board federal payment reductions of \$155 billion over 10 years for hospitals ... Mayo and similar health systems object to the sweeping cuts. 'Across-the-board cuts will be harmful to everyone and we think it is particularly bad to penalize the high-value organizations,' said Jeff Korsmo, executive director of the Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center. 'We will have to violate our values in order to stay in business and reduce our access to government patients.'" (Phil Galewitz, "Model Health Systems Press Case For Medicare Fix In Reform," [Kaiser Health News](#), 7/20/09)

**LIKE THE CARE YOU RECEIVE FROM YOUR DOCTOR? Government Board Controlling Medicare Could Overrule Your Doctor's Decisions.** "The president has decided ... that he wants to create a new and very powerful executive branch agency, the Independent Medicare Advisory Council (IMAC) ... Not only would the council make recommendations on payment updates, it would also have the authority to propose other 'Medicare reforms' which would go into effect unless Congress could muster veto override majorities in opposition. What are 'Medicare reforms'? From the write-up, it seems they could be just about anything ... New rules for establishing qualified hospitals and doctors. Penalties for physicians who don't follow government guidelines." (James C. Capretta, "On-The-Fly Audacity," [The New Atlantis's "Diagnosis" Blog](#), 7/20/09)

**LIKE THE HEALTH COVERAGE YOU RECEIVE FROM MEDICARE? Government Board Controlling Medicare Could Have Ability To Ration Your Treatments.** "Enter the Obama administration, which submitted to Congress legislative language that would create IMAC and give it broad authority to recommend 'reforms to the Medicare program.' In effect, IMAC would enable Medicare to overcome the political resistance to government rationing ... The stimulus bill and the House reform plan deny federal agencies conducting comparative-effectiveness research the power to 'mandate coverage, reimbursement, or other policies for any public or private payer.' Obama places no such restrictions on IMAC." (Michael F. Cannon, Op-Ed, "Sorry Folks, Sarah Palin Is (Partly) Right," [Detroit Free-Press](#), 8/19/09)

**HAVE HEART PROBLEMS? Payment Cuts To Cardiologists Could "Threaten Access" To Heart Treatments You Need.** "Medicare officials recently proposed changes that could increase payments for some primary care services but reduce payments to many specialists. Cardiologists would be especially hard hit, with cuts of more than 20 percent in payments for electrocardiograms and 12 percent for heart stent procedures. 'Cuts of this magnitude could cripple cardiology practices and

threaten access to services for millions of patients,' said Dr. John C. Lewin, chief executive of the American College of Cardiology." (Robert Pear, "A Basis Is Seen For Some Health Plan Fears Among The Elderly," [The New York Times](#), 8/20/09)

**HOPING FOR A CURE? Medicare Cuts Could Stifle Innovation That Could Produce New Treatments For You.** "Even small reductions to the future growth of Medicare spending – called 'cuts' in Washington parlance – unfairly burden the elderly, along with the doctors and hospitals that serve them and the manufacturers of health products, lest the pace of technical innovation be impaired." (Uwe Reinhardt, "A 'Common Sense' American Health Reform Plan," [The New York Times' "Economix" Blog](#), 7/31/09)