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March 23, 2010

To the Editor:

People must take notice that Medicare has led the way in destroying the autonomy of the Physician.

Medicare gave us:

- 1) Forced insurance enrollment - those accepting Social Security Benefits are forced into Medicare.
- 2) DRG's (Diagnosis Related Groups) - bundled payments to doctors and hospitals.
- 3) Reduced reimbursements to doctors and hospitals.
- 4) Utilization Review - deciding what your doctor can do for you.
- 5) Quality Review - deciding what is good for you.
- 6) Length of Stay issues - deciding how long your doctor can keep you in the hospital.
- 7) Expansion of Medical Records Rules - deciding who can look at your chart.
- 8) Expansion of administrator control - deciding whether your interests or those of the system come first.

And the private insurers followed suit.

Mrs. Legere's article on March 23, 2010, mentions comments referable to me concerning the use of perioperative antibiotics in total joint replacements.

The "insurance compan(y)" that is mandating the restriction of antibiotics is MEDICARE. The enticement for compliance it uses is restriction of payments to the hospital system for non compliance with its decrees. The argument it uses, argument by authority based on consensus, is political not scientific. It ignores the importance of autonomy on the part of the physician acting in the best interests of the patient.

It sacrifices the interests of the individual patient to that of the collective. It is RATIONING pure and simple.

For rationing to be imposed, doctors must be obedient. It is all about control and power.

The power of the physician over the patient is very great, but it is based on trust, and if the patient has the freedom to choose the physician, the power remains with the patient who conferred it on the physician.

If the doctor is controlled by the system, he has immorally and unethically transferred power over the patient to a nameless bureaucracy whose interests cannot be that of the individual patient. The patient is enslaved by the collective, the power being transformed into FORCE.

The bill passed by the Democrats in the House on Sunday, 3/21/10, serves only to advance upon us the imposition of Socialized Medicine, which destroys freedom and autonomy for the sake of equality and mediocrity and which substitutes force for power.

It is a Trojan Horse for Socialism in the Land of Freedom.

“Under pressure from the ruthless, the clueless, combined with the spineless to achieve the worthless.”



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