

February 5, 2020

Doctors and Patients - Not Insurance Companies - Should Determine the Course of Patient Diagnostics and Treatment.

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The practice of medicine has changed from taking care of patients, to determining what testing, drugs and hospitals may be available to the patient based upon their insurance policy. Nowhere during the time I was in Medical School was the emphasis placed upon the insurance company. Rather it was placed upon the patient and what was needed to correctly diagnose and treat them. We were after all being trained to take care of patients - not insurance companies, CMS or BigPharma.

When I was in Residency and Fellowship, we learned that the fastest way to get approval for patient admission to the hospital was to ask for the name of the person - working for the insurance company - after we were denied permission to admit the patient. The conversation followed that we needed the name of the person for the medical record, so if the patient had complications resulting from the failure to admit them, the record would reflect who the attorneys should contact. It's amazing how those working for the insurance company suddenly find a reason to admit the patient.

I agree with the need to hold the insurance companies accountable for their decisions about testing and treatment options - but more importantly, I think it is time the control of medical care of the patient return to the doctor and patient.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None Reported