

The Washington Post

[How money, mail and power affect our health](#)

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Marty Makary's July 12 op-ed, "[For a wasteful Medicare rule, location is everything](#)," made a clear case: Too many Americans have been blindly led into a health-care affordability crisis. Even if they never set foot in a hospital, patients receiving care from hospital-affiliated providers face higher prices caused by so-called site-of-service payment differentials. As a community oncologist, it angers me to see these disparities sometimes [triple costs](#) for services such as chemotherapy.

These payment differentials incentivize hospitals to acquire independent practices to boost their revenue. The differentials also drive health systems to further expand their market share through anti-competitive tactics. After my practice refused an acquisition attempt from a large health system, my oncology privileges were revoked — leaving me unable to provide care to my own cancer patients when they were admitted to the hospital. Restricting trusted care teams leaves patients confused, frustrated and in the dark.

This trend is bad news for everyone — except hospitals. To prevent such practices from becoming widespread, Congress must pass the [Lower Costs, More Transparency Act](#) without delay.

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