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Report: Restrictions on Physician-Owned Hospitals May Hinder Economy, Quality of Care

Written by Bob Herman | August 25, 2011

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The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act essentially eliminated the expansion of physician-owned hospitals, and this may have an effect on economic activity and quality of care for patients, according to a Texas Public Policy Foundation report.

Spencer Harris and Brad Zarin, authors of the report, noted that a 2009 study by the Health Economics Consulting Group indicated Texas physician-owned hospitals contribute roughly \$2.9 billion in economic activity to the state per year, including the provision of more than 22,000 full-time jobs. They also said reports by CMS indicate physician-owned hospitals carry high rankings in facility cleanliness, staff attentiveness and promptness of service.

The authors recommended that the third-party payment system should be reformed to remove the financial disconnect between patients, hospitals and physicians, and they also said expansion of physician-owned hospitals could spur more competition within the healthcare system.

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