

surgeons how much they would like to be paid for the procedures you see on our website, each of them aware that if they shot too high, patients would be sent a signal, one that might run patients off. As an anesthesiologist, I basically bill for my time, so the anesthesia charges were pretty easy to figure.

The facility charges (this is where the incredible savings lie) were basically time and materials. How much time in the operating room was needed, and what supplies would be required? After adding what seemed to be an appropriate profit margin and an allowance for equipment purchases and upgrades, we had prices that were one-sixth to one-tenth of what many "not for profit" hospitals in our area were charging for the same procedures. Our price was half what Medicare paid these same hospitals (according to what I have

been told by congressional staffers) and were even less than what Medicaid pays these same hospitals, according to what reporter Jim Epstein discovered during his *Reason* magazine documentary about our facility.¹

I have been asked many times, "How did you come up with your prices?" I hope this is informative. Prices are an indispensable signal in a free market and must not be a "proprietary" secret of the AMA and the third-party payment industry.

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REFERENCE

1. Epstein J. Oklahoma doctors vs. ObamaCare. *Reason.com*, Nov 15, 2012.

New Government Warning Labels

Craig J. Cantoni

After requiring new warning labels on cigarette packaging, the federal government is expanding the idea to other items. Each of the following should have a black-box label:

- **Ballots:** The two main political parties use voting as a distraction so that the hoodlums can steal the chrome wheels from your car while you're in the polling place.
- **U.S. dollar:** Today's dollar was created out of thin air in violation of the Constitution. Such fiat money is anything but a storehouse of value, and only fools would keep their lifetime savings in such Monopoly money.
- **Welfare payments:** These checks create dependency, obesity, out-of-wedlock births, and children who are considerably more likely to commit crimes, have poor grades, drop out of school, and grow up to vote for Democrats.
- **Public school report cards:** The grades are inflated; unionized teachers are required to know progressive pedagogical nonsense but not anything about the subject matter; and high-school graduates will have to go to college for remedial education.
- **Property tax bills:** Most of the money will go to public schools, where most of it will be wasted on greedy apparatchiks and unions.
- **Bank deposit slips:** The bank shouldn't be trusted with your Monopoly money because it is part of an

unconstitutional and corrupt banking cartel controlled by the Federal Reserve.

- **Pay stubs:** Deductions for FICA taxes go to the Ponzi schemes of Social Security and Medicare.
- **Paperwork from health insurance companies and medical facilities:** High prices and Byzantine rules are results of the government's destruction of a consumer market in medical care and insurance in 1942.
- **Census forms and Equal Employment Opportunity posters:** Government racial classifications result from certain racial and ethnic groups' race-baiting and unconstitutional search for racial preferences.
- **College applications:** Ninety percent of professors are leftists who love to turn the children of the bourgeoisie into neo-Marxists who loathe capitalism, the traditional family, and the nation's founding principles.
- **Speeches by members of Congress:** Hide your children and your silverware while Congress is in session.

Unfortunately, because of the proliferation of warning labels over the decades, no one will read the new warnings and the nation will continue its rapid descent into insolvency and social upheaval.

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