

More transparency

on medical bills

Your coverage of Aetna's lawsuit against six physicians was indeed timely ("Aetna sues doctors over bills it calls 'excessive,'" Page A-1, March 25).

As a health insurance broker, I am asked every day about why health insurance costs keep going up. Your article will help me explain that in some cases, the amount billed for medical services far exceeds the reasonable norm; we all have to recognize and protect against that happening.

Billing incidents like the ones described are not new. Asking health care providers to be far more open about their charges may go a long way to significant reductions in the number of incidents.

I call on New Jersey lawmakers to introduce legislation encouraging more transparency in medical billing. Doctors should be required to provide information on their rates and whether their services will be billed as out-of-network care to patients before treatment.

In this case, "Do no harm" takes on a greater meaning. It's the right thing to do for patients.

Dave Mordo

Middletown, April 6

The writer is director of small group operations at Walsh Benefits in Fair Haven.

## Reader Comments (2)

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1. Sunday April 24, 2011, 9:56 PM - **JimmyPete** says:  
One other thing. Craffen rightly says Ryan's plan doesn't affect those over 55. He's right. So I guess in Ryan's world those over 55 who are or will enjoy the benefits of Medicare, won't care that younger citizens will be stripped of decent senior health care under the Ryan plan. Not everyone is as self centered as this letter writer. Medicare has provided health care for seniors for 45 years, can it be reformed you bet , but Ryan's plan will kill it.
2. Sunday April 24, 2011, 7:26 PM - **JimmyPete** says:  
re: Steven Craffen's criticisms of Rothman-Steven C. Craffen holds himself out as a financial adviser he should get his financial facts straight instead of straight from the Tea Party. The money the Democrats proposed cutting from Medicare was extra money for Medicare Advantage. Medicare advantage was pushed by privatizers to attempt to show that private plans could compete with public insurance Medicare. Guess what, Medicare Advantage is far more costly than orthodox Medicare. There is no reason for tax payers to subsidize this inefficient program and the HealthCare reform takes away its subsidy. By the way in the Republican "catfood" Medicare