

# *Medical Society of the State of New York*

420 Lakeville Road, Lake Success, New York 11042  
(P) 516-488-6100 x344 (F) 516-328-1982 (E) [ladams@mssny.org](mailto:ladams@mssny.org)



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Ms. Caryn McBride  
Managing Editor  
Westchester County Business Journal  
3 Gannett Dr  
White Plains, NY 10604-3407

## **MSSNY Responds to Westchester County Business Journal re Health Care Costs**

There are major flaws in your editorial's recommendation to lower healthcare costs by having doctors post their fees ("Putting a Price on Health Care," 10/16/2007). Posted fees would have no effect on the cost of healthcare under the current system. This is so because the vast majority of physicians don't determine how much they get paid; insurers do. Both private and government health insurers set the rates they pay to reimburse physicians for their services. These same behemoth forces also dictate how much patients will pay for premiums and co-pays, and even, in some cases, whether they will get care at all.

Yes, there are many uninsured patients who are not subject to insurer mandates, but few pay a doctor's fee. Many don't seek a doctor's care at all, and many let taxpayers pay for their more expensive care at hospitals. Others go to a physician and get treated pro bono.

Robert B. Goldberg  
President  
Medical Society of the State of New York