

I'm asked over and over again why I left corporate medicine and don't take insurance.

Medicine has changed much for the worse. A typical visit, including a cursory physical are 10 minutes and God help you if you have questions or something awful brewing in your body somewhere. There's no way a ten minute visit will pick that up. I've decided this is BAD MEDICINE. Therefore, to protect my patients and be sure I'm not missing anything, I spend an hour in my exam. I get to know my patients for a full understanding of what they go through from day to day. It helps me to have a clear picture of stressors that can affect health.

We deserve good health care, not this "a-la-carte" nonsense that's being presented as cost-effective medicine. Sure it's a \$20 copay... then you get referred to a specialist, then a \$20.00 copay and maybe lab tests or \$ 20.00 x-rays without a second thought. Good luck getting the results of the report or even knowing if you need to follow up; there's no one to put this all together or advocate in your behalf.

I also had to see one of my former Colleagues for a torn shoulder. No exam, a couple of questions and then an injection. All in 4 minutes. No attempt to figure out what was wrong to address the problem not simply put a band-aid on the problem. Not acceptable!!! Likewise my annual physical was 7 minutes. Dr listened to my heart lungs and neck (all which have findings), but I was told "all clear... you're fine." When I questioned I have a 59 year old prostate that should be checked, was told, "we don't do that anymore." Would you like to see a Urologist?" For the ten seconds of that exam, one can find cancer, unknown blood in the stool and potential cancers. Again, due to time constraints, BAD MEDICINE. Maybe the young Doctors see this as the wave of the future, but after 30 years of caring for patients, I've seen the cancers, I've found the prostate problems, I know the abnormalities lab work can display (that often physicians don't even check or go through with a fine tooth comb). This is not missing the bananas on a supermarket checkout, this is missing clues that potentially point to life threatening illness. I am embarrassed and furious Medicine has boiled down to time constraints and loss of empathy and concern.

People, including Health Care Professionals deserve to have a Physician who needs to "dot the i's and cross the t's"; Less chance of missing critical diagnoses. Medicine is no longer an art or a calling... it's a business. Corporations get richer, Insurance Companies dictate medicines (as a cost saving tool) and we as patients are last in line. NOT ACCEPTABLE!!!

This is why I tried and left Corporate. I wasn't doing justice to my patients nor to my Hippocratic Oath and desire for complete family medicine. My hands were tied as to what I could do and my wings were clipped as to how much time I could offer. Sure, I don't get the income or multitude of benefits, but I know I've done my best for my patients and my Families. This is so NOT OK!!!

I've been on the opposite side as a patient. After all aging is not for the faint of heart. Poor and rushed medicine left me with an infection in my bone necessitating a trip to Hospital for Special Surgeries and a 6 week long IV, two torn surgeries, a pinched nerve and a shoulder in constant pain. I've had to deal with these on my own as the care I received was sparse at best. Luckily I have a medical education I actively use; I have to take control of my own health... the very thing we, as Physicians are not supposed to do. Don't even trust corporate medicine taking care of my family because I know they'll just be rushed through. THIS IS NOT OK. At this rate, more people are left with illnesses diagnosed too late.

I'm not a dreamer; I'm a healer and I refuse to be marginalized. That's not how I was taught and I remember people entrust their lives with me... that is not to be taken lightly nor without the intensity and exquisite focus it demands. Please take the time to read... it affects all of us... Physicians, Patients, Families an entire multi-generational demographic.