



# Physician Got Run Over By ObamaCare

*On The 3<sup>rd</sup> Day Of ObamaCare, Democrats Gave To Me ... Fewer  
Physicians*

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**WITH SEBELIUS SET TO FACE CONGRESS, AMERICANS ARE FACING ANOTHER  
BROKEN OBAMACARE PROMISE: THEY CAN'T KEEP THEIR DOCTORS**



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**Health And Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius: Any American Who Likes Their Doctor And Health Plan Keeps Them.** SEBELIUS: "Well, I think when you start with the fact that 85 million Americans have private employer-based coverage, and many of them like what they have. And we start with the premise that any American, who likes their health care, has a great relationship with their doctor keeps it. You choose what you like." (Fox's [Fox & Friends](#), 5/12/09)



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**HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius: “For Americans Who Have Coverage They Like, They’d Keep Their Doctor, They’d Keep Their Coverage.”** (CBS’s [“The Early Show,”](#) 6/5/09)

**During The First 2012 Presidential Debate, Obama Promised ObamaCare Would Not Mean A “Government Takeover” And Would Allow Americans To “Keep Your Own Doctor.”** BARACK OBAMA: “And let me tell you exactly what ‘ObamaCare’ did. Number one, if you’ve got health insurance it doesn’t mean a government takeover. You keep your own insurance. You keep your own doctor. But it does say insurance companies can’t jerk you around.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At Presidential Debate](#), Denver, CO, 10/3/12)

***The “Keep Your Doctor” Promise Is Just Another Broken Promise From Obama & Sebelius***

**Obama’s “High-Profile Pledge” That All Americans Could Keep Their Doctor Under ObamaCare Is His Next Broken Promise.** “Barack Obama’s broken promise that all Americans would be able to keep their health care plans after the implementation of the Affordable Care Act has infuriated people who took the President at his word and rattled even his staunchest supporters. But for the President, the real political pain may only be starting. Come 2014, the rest of the country may learn that another high-profile pledge was untrue. ‘No matter how we reform health care,’ Obama said in 2009, ‘we will keep this promise: if you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. Period.’” (Alex Altman, “‘You Can Keep Your Doctor’: ObamaCare’s Next Broken Promise?” [Time](#), 11/19/13)

- **Despite Obama’s Promise, “New Plans Appear To Offer A Narrow Choice Of Hospitals And Doctors.”** “Obama promised people could keep their doctors. But in many states the new plans appear to offer a narrow choice of hospitals and doctors. Overall, it’s shaping up as less choice than what people get through Medicare or employer-based coverage.” (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Holly Ramer, “Limited Patient Choice Next Overhaul Issue,” [The Associated Press](#), 11/20/13)

**Keeping Your Provider Is “The Next Vexing Challenge For Americans” Created By ObamaCare.** “Keeping your doctors and hospitals may be the next vexing challenge for Americans in the new health plans created by President Barack Obama’s law.” (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Holly Ramer, “Limited Patient Choice Next Overhaul Issue,” [The Associated Press](#), 11/20/13)

## **MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WILL LOSE THEIR DOCTOR AND FACE HIGHER COSTS**

**Under ObamaCare, “Many Insurers Are Significantly Limiting The Choices Of Doctors And Hospitals Available To Consumers.”** “Federal officials often say that health insurance will cost consumers less than expected under President Obama’s health care law. But they rarely mention one big

reason: many insurers are significantly limiting the choices of doctors and hospitals available to consumers.” (Robert Pear, “Lower Health Insurance Premiums To Come At Cost Of Fewer Choices,” [The New York Times](#), 9/23/13)

- **5 Million People That Purchased Insurance On The Individual Health Insurance Market Have Received Cancellation Notices.** “They said the widespread cancellations in the individual health insurance market — roughly 5 million and counting -- are in line with what was projected under regulations drawn up by the administration in 2010, requirements that both insurers and businesses objected to at the time. Cancellations also are occurring in the small group market, which covers businesses with between two and 50 employees, they noted.” (Lisa Myers, “Insurers, State Officials Say Cancellation Of Health care Policies Just As They Predicted,” [NBC News](#), 11/15/13)

**Faced With The Need To Cut Down Costs, Insurers Are “Shrinking” The Network Of Doctors Available To Patients.** “It’s not that simple. In order to participate in health-insurance exchanges, insurers needed to find a way to tamp down the high costs of premiums. As a result, many will narrow their networks, shrinking the range of doctors that are available to patients under their plan, experts say.” (Alex Altman, “‘You Can Keep Your Doctor’: ObamaCare’s Next Broken Promise?” [Time](#), 11/19/13)

- **ObamaCare’s Mandates Are Leading To “Limited Choices And Significant Out-Of-Pocket Costs.”** “Exchange plans are required to take all applicants, cover broad benefits and provide robust financial protection against catastrophic illness. In return for that, something else has to give. The result: limited choices and significant out-of-pocket costs through deductibles and copayments.” (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Holly Ramer, “Limited Patient Choice Next Overhaul Issue,” [The Associated Press](#), 11/20/13)

**For Those Joining The ObamaCare Exchanges, Some May Find That Their “Specialists Are Not Covered By An Exchange Insurance Plan.”** “But those with illnesses may discover that their specialists are not covered by an exchange insurance plan. Low-income people accustomed to a certain community clinic may find that going there is no longer an option. And everyone may encounter long waits to see a doctor.” (Sandhya Somashekhar and Sarah Kliff, “How Much Will ObamaCare Premiums Cost? Depends On Where You Live,” [The Washington Post’s WonkBlog](#), 9/25/13)

- **Californians Are Likely To Experience “Long Wait Times, A Scarcity Of Specialists And Loss Of A Longtime Doctor.”** “These diminished medical networks are fueling growing concerns that many patients will still struggle to get care despite the nation’s biggest healthcare expansion in half a century. Consumers could see long wait times, a scarcity of specialists and loss of a longtime doctor.” (Chad Terhune, “Insurers Limiting Doctors, Hospitals In Health Insurance Market,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 9/14/13)
- **Harvard School Of Public Health Professor Robert J. Blendon: “Some Of These Plans Exclude Coverage At Children’s Hospitals As Well, Which Means Some Parents With Sick Children Will Have To Change Their Source Of Care.”** Robert J. Blendon, a professor at Harvard’s School of Public Health: “This is the next big political story. The president promised people they could keep their doctor and implicitly their hospital. A number of state exchanges are like New Hampshire in that they are offering what are called narrow network plans. Some of these plans exclude coverage at children’s hospitals as well, which means some parents with sick children will have to change their source of care. This too is not what was promised.” (Thomas B. Edsall, Op-Ed, “The ObamaCare Crisis,” [The New York Times](#), 11/20/13)

**In California, Major Insurers “Have Sharply Limited A Number Of Doctors And Hospitals Available To Patients In The State’s” ObamaCare Exchange.** “The doctor can’t see you now. Consumers may hear that a lot more often after getting health insurance under President Obama’s Affordable Care Act. To hold down premiums, major insurers in California have sharply limited the number of doctors and hospitals

available to patients in the state's new health insurance market opening Oct. 1." (Chad Terhune, "Insurers Limiting Doctors, Hospitals In Health Insurance Market," [Los Angeles Times](#), 9/14/13)

- **Health Net Customers Are Having Their Networks Limited To Just Over 2,000 Primary-Care Doctors And Specialists.** "In Los Angeles County, for instance, Health Net customers in the state exchange would be limited to 2,316 primary-care doctors and specialists. That's less than a third of the doctors Health Net offers to workers on employer plans. In San Diego, there are only 204 primary-care doctors to serve Health Net patients." (Chad Terhune, "Insurers Limiting Doctors, Hospitals In Health Insurance Market," [Los Angeles Times](#), 9/14/13)
- **Blue Shield Of California Cut Its Network By About 50 Percent.** "Other major insurers have pared their list of medical providers too, but not to Health Net's degree. Statewide, Blue Shield of California says exchange customers will be restricted to about 50% of its regular physician network." (Chad Terhune, "Insurers Limiting Doctors, Hospitals In Health Insurance Market," [Los Angeles Times](#), 9/14/13)

**In Some States, A Majority Of The Plans Sold On The ObamaCare Exchange Will Limit Access To Some Of The Best Hospitals In The State, Including Sloan Kettering In New York, MD Anderson In Houston, And Cedars-Sinai In California.** "Americans who are buying insurance plans over online exchanges, under what is known as ObamaCare, will have limited access to some of the nation's leading hospitals, including two world-renowned cancer centres. Amid a drive by insurers to limit costs, the majority of insurance plans being sold on the new healthcare exchanges in New York, Texas, and California, for example, will not offer patients' access to Memorial Sloan Kettering in Manhattan or MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, two top cancer centres, or Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, one of the top research and teaching hospitals in the country." (Stephanie Kirchgaessner, "New Affordable Care US Health Plans Will Exclude Top Hospitals," [Financial Times](#), 12/9/13)

**Many Consumers In New Hampshire May Have To Drive Nearly An Hour For A Doctor.** "Peter L. Gosline, the chief executive of Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough, N.H., said his hospital had been excluded from the network without any discussions or negotiations. 'Many consumers will have to drive 30 minutes to an hour to reach other doctors and hospitals,' Mr. Gosline said. 'It's very inconvenient for patients, and at times it's a hardship.'" (Robert Pear, "Lower Health Insurance Premiums To Come At Cost Of Fewer Choices," [The New York Times](#), 9/23/13)

**In Missouri, None Of Anthem BlueCross BlueShield Plans Cover Visits To The "Area's Premier Academic Medical Center."** "The network for the Anthem BlueCross BlueShield plans, which will be sold through Missouri's 'ObamaCare' marketplace, does not include BJC HealthCare and its 13 hospitals -- among them Barnes-Jewish Hospital, the area's premier academic medical center, and St. Louis Children's Hospital." (Jay Hancock, "Consumer Groups Criticize Anthem's Narrow Network In Missouri's ObamaCare Marketplace," [Kaiser Health News](#), 9/26/13)

### ***For Those Who Want To Keep Their Doctor, They Will Face Higher Costs***

**ObamaCare Exchange Shoppers Are Expected To "Pay More To Keep Their Current Providers."**

"Some people looking for coverage on the exchange, however, do care about provider networks. They'll have to shop carefully to find plans in which their doctors are participating and may even have to pay more to keep their current providers." (Tami Luhby, "Doctor Choice In ObamaCare? Not So Much," [CNN Money](#), 10/14/13)

- **Patients Will Have To See A New Doctor Or "Foot The Full Bill Themselves."** "Insurers are also restricting participants' access to doctors through HMO plans that don't offer out-of-network benefits. So patients have to stick to a certain set of physicians and hospitals or foot the full bill themselves." (Tami Luhby, "Doctor Choice In ObamaCare? Not So Much," [CNBC](#), 10/14/13)

- **According To An Analyst At The North Carolina Justice Center, Consumers Could “End Up With Astronomical Costs.”** “Consumers should be prepared for ‘much tighter, narrower networks’ of doctors and hospitals, said Adam M. Linker, a health policy analyst at the North Carolina Justice Center, a statewide advocacy group. ‘But there is also a risk because, under some health plans, consumers can end up with astronomical costs if they go to providers outside the network.’” (Robert Pear, “Lower Health Insurance Premiums To Come At Cost Of Fewer Choices,” [The New York Times](#), 9/23/13)

**For A Middle-Aged Ohioan And His Wife, They Must Now Either Choose To Pay More In Premiums To Keep Their Doctor Of Years.** “For Don Lane, 59, doctor networks are key. Lane is looking to retire next year so he and his wife, Amanda, are expecting to sign up for an exchange policy. But they want to make sure their primary care doctor, whom they’ve seen for years and has all their records, is in the plan they pick. So far, Lane found that his physician is in a platinum plan offered by Humana. But he hasn’t been able to access the networks offered by the other insurers in his area because of ongoing technical glitches, so he doesn’t yet know if he has other options. ‘I will have to make a choice -- should I pay a little more to get my doctor?’ said Lane, who lives in Wyoming, Ohio.” (Tami Luhby, “Doctor Choice In ObamaCare? Not So Much,” [CNN Money](#), 10/14/13)

***Even Obama’s Former Advisor And ObamaCare Architect Agrees That Americans Will Have To Pay Up To Keep Their Doctors***

**ObamaCare Architect Ezekiel Emanuel: “If You Want To Pay More For An Insurance Company That Covers Your Doctor, You Can Do That.”** FOX’s CHRIS WALLACE: “It’s a simple yes-or-no question. Did he say, ‘if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor?’” DR. EMANUEL: “Yes. But look, if you want to pay more for an insurance company that covers your doctor, you can do that. This is a matter of choice. We know in all sorts of places you pay more for certain -- for a wider range of choices or a wider range of benefits. The issue isn’t the selective networks. People keep saying, oh, the problem is you’re going to have a selective number --” MR. WALLACE: “Well, if you -- if you lose your doctor or you lose your hospital...” DR. EMANUEL: “Let me just say something. People are going to have a choice as to whether they want to pay a certain amount for a selective network or pay more for a broader network. They get...” MR. WALLACE: “Which would mean your premiums would probably go up.” DR. EMANUEL: “They get that choice. That’s a choice we always make.” MR. WALLACE: “Which means your premium may go up over what you were paying so that -- in other words, if...” (Fox’s [Fox News Sunday](#), 12/8/13)

- **Emanuel: If You Want To Keep Your Doctor, “You Can Pay For It.”** DR. EMANUEL: “No one guaranteed you that your premium wouldn’t increase. Premiums have been going up under...” MR. WALLACE: “The president guaranteed me I could keep my doctor.” DR. EMANUEL: “-- under president -- and if you want to, you can pay for it.” (Fox’s [Fox News Sunday](#), 12/8/13)