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AMA: PATIENTS AND PHYSICIANS PREVAIL OVER HEALTH INSURER
Doctors Applaud NY AG Cuomo for spearheading this groundbreaking settlement

Statement attributed to:

Nancy H. Nielsen, M.D.
AMA President

“Today, patients and physicians prevailed over health insurance giant UnitedHealth Group when New York Attorney General Cuomo stopped the insurer from using a rigged Ingenix database that increased insurer profits at the expense of patients and physicians. For far too long health insurers using the flawed Ingenix database have been able to increase revenue by underpaying patients’ medical bills. Insurers will now be held accountable for their payment obligations.

“The AMA has been fighting to achieve greater transparency and accuracy in how reimbursements rates for out-of-network care are determined, and applauds Attorney General Cuomo’s decisive action to lift the cloak of secrecy and bring to an end UnitedHealth Group’s conflict of interest in determining reimbursements.

“Americans have been paying more to see the doctor of their choice, while insurers have been using a secret database to pay less than promised to increase their profits on the backs of patients. When insurers underpay medical bills they drive a wedge between the doctor and the patient by creating the false perception that any unexpected balance on a patient's bill is the fault of the doctor.

“The AMA appreciates the leadership of Attorney General Cuomo in initiating his investigation into the Ingenix database, and fully supports the Attorney General’s actions to have a not-for-profit institution create a new, reliable database that is fair to patients and physicians.”

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