

The Way We Pay for Healthcare Will Change

The administrative complexities of collection have become a nightmare for the industry.

May 15, 2024 at 12:50 pm ET









PHOTO: MARK HUMPHREY/ASSOCIATEI

Regarding "More Hospitals Demand Payment Before Surgery" (Page One, May 10): This may be regarded as a troubling trend for the patient, but for the industry this has long been a disaster in the making. When ObamaCare embarked on the initiative to massively enroll patients in health plans, it disguised that these so-called insurance plans had high deductibles.

From the outset, these plans created hurdles for providers and facilities to recoup payments after services were rendered. The administrative complexities of collection have become a nightmare for the industry, combined with the unreliability of insurance reimbursement. Upfront payment is the only way to counteract the chaos. Unfortunately, the downside will be a reduction in access to care.

Ronald G. Frank, M.D.

West Orange, N.J.