

Medicare

#3 USER FEES:

Tried, tested and untrue

Facts and Insights

Research has proven that user fees won't save the system money. A famous study is the US Rand Health Insurance Experiment. Researchers found user fees did not shrink overall health costs and people got less care in plans with user fees.

The notion that patients abuse health services is wrong. As UBC health economist Robert Evans explains, medical procedures are not like free hot cakes; people aren't going to line up for heart transplants simply because someone else is paying for them.

Patient-initiated abuse is estimated to be one to two per cent of total health care spending. Implementing user fees is like using a bulldozer to weed your lawn. It just doesn't make sense.

User fees will actually cost the system more because:

- the higher costs of delayed care;
- costs of administering the payment of fees;
- most patient visits beyond the first one are requested by doctors, not patients.

Obvious Conclusions

Governments must abandon the idea of user fees because they create advantages for the rich, make matters worse for the poor, and drive up health care costs.

The real solution lies in governments providing adequate public funding for our Medicare.

*Our Medicare celebrates
the triumph of solid values
AND sensible economics!*



TAKE Action

Speak out for the good of your health. No one can do everything—but every single one of us can do something.

URGE the federal government to implement the Romanow Report: Pierre Pettigrew
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READ the National Union brief to the Romanow Commission and other health care information: www.nupge.ca
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CONNECT with your neighbours and get involved in a local Medicare campaign; get fresh information; get email addresses for your MP and your MLA; link up with a trade union:
www.savemedicare.com
www.healthcoalition.ca
www.clc-ctc.ca

ENCOURAGE your friends and co-workers to find out more.

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*Also available in French