Medical Economics: How Greed Corrupts US Health Care

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In his trending JAMA opinion piece, *Salve Lucrum: The Existential Threat of Greed in US Health Care*¹, Dr Donald Berwick states:

“No sector of US health care is immune from the immoderate pursuit of profit, neither drug companies, nor insurers, nor hospitals, nor investors, nor physician practices.”

But how did we get here, and how can we fix it? Join Dr Maria Basile as she reviews the four principal elements that have historically been pillars of the US health care industry (Reimbursement, Regulation, Competition, and Technology). She’ll describe how avarice, manipulation and profiteering create higher costs, concentration of wealth and political power which then block any constraints on greed. Finally, she’ll propose some solutions and tactics to identify and address greed in US health care.


Award-winning poet, surgeon, hospital and health plan administrator, Maria A Basile, MD, MBA is clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family, Population and Preventive Medicine and the Associate Director of the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics at the Renaissance School of Medicine, Stony Brook University. A graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine and the Willumstad School of Business at Adelphi University, Dr Basile founded PQL Communications Inc in the summer of 2021 to help physicians and other healthcare leaders communicate with their most authentic voice. She is a Past-president of the Suffolk County Medical Society and Vice-speaker for the Medical Society of the State of New York. She is on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Medical Humanities. Her writing has been published in literary as well as peer-reviewed medical journals.

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