

EMTALA: The Great American Giveaway

Paid for by the doctors of America

The unfunded federal law has become a disaster for us all. Hospitals such as Holy Cross in Nogales lost \$1 million of uncompensated care for patients from Mexico and Central America while the University of Arizona in Tucson lost \$3.3 million in a 5 month period. That was reported in 2004 which I am sure is more by now. Any doctor on staff of at hospital can be tapped to treat upon demand. Any of us can be sued if they are unhappy with their outcome. Expectations of immediate services and the language barrier can lead to an unpleasant outcome with you on the defense.

Any patient deemed an emergency; rash, cough, hangnail, cardiac arrest, HIV, drug addiction, herniated disc, mental problems or personality disorders must be seen. A woman in labor must remain in the hospital until delivery of the child – who automatically becomes a U.S. citizen. No I.D., no insurance card! If that baby is premature we, the citizens of the state, pick up the tab for its care. I am sorry for these poor people but we are taking services away from American citizens.

Because of this many hospital's ERs have closed due to greater than 50% unpaid claims. That is why illegal immigrants love America – free medical service! If this has not touched you, congratulations, but they will because of a federal law passed in Washington. Why are we waiting to change these harmful unfunded laws? We have these poor souls because your congressional people decided to have us work for free while they receive their 4% pay increase.

It's your ox being gored doctor; can you afford not to help protect our healthcare system?

We would like to thank those that took the time to email or write your members of Congress. The stress, the liability and loss of compensation well can be the undoing of our representatives in Congress in my personal opinion. Please be involved!

Barbara A. Berry, M.D.
President