

Current Hospital Issues in the Medicare Program

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My Grandfather worked his entire life to support his family. Part of his criteria when securing a job was securing healthcare for his family—including retirement healthcare for him and my Grandmother. He put in his time, retiring well after 60 years old. He paid into Medicare, and his years of service earned him retirement benefits.

Not too long after retirement, my Grandmother had a stroke. She was brought to the hospital only to have another stroke, because of inexperience on behalf of the staff working that day. More than 10 years have passed since that fateful day, and my Grandmother has been left wheelchair bound and has a difficult time with cognition.

My Grandparents are very humble, yet proud. They do not ask for help, and have a belief system that they take care of their kids, and not the other way around. My Grandfather is well into his 80's and still cares daily for my Grandmother with limited outside help. The required copayments and premiums he has been paying in retirement are not exactly cheap, but he pays them without question.

Recently, my Grandmother fell and fractured her leg, rendering her completely immobile. This same fracture would not immobilize a healthy individual, but due to her stroke and limited mobility, she cannot get into her wheelchair or bed without one hundred percent help. My Grandfather, at this stage in his life, cannot lift her whole body weight. The hospital realized this and placed her in a room on "Observation Status." Little did we know that this word would reach deep into my Grandfather's pocket. She has been in the hospital for over a month costing my Grandfather thousands of dollars. He uttered a sentence to me that nearly brought a tear to my eye. He said, "Why did I work all these years for healthcare coverage?"

It is really sad that one word, despite each individual's circumstances, can be the difference in coverage or no coverage. I just ask that the representatives of the citizens of the United States can overcome this dilemma with good common-sense action!

Thank you.