

# IPAB: The Rationing Board

GALEN GUIDE No. 3

FALL 2012

The Constitution gives the power of the purse to Congress so that the peoples' elected representatives can be accountable to the voters for their decisions. The Independent Payment Advisory Board would turn this principle upside down.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act created the IPAB to take difficult decisions about cutting Medicare payments out of the hands of legislators and delegate them to a panel of 15 unelected experts.

## What will the IPAB do?

- The IPAB will be charged with keeping Medicare spending in line with strict targets set in law under ObamaCare. Unless Congress can muster supermajority votes to come up with its own cuts to reach the same targets, the dictates of these unelected technocrats will carry the force of law.
- This unelected board will ultimately determine policies for spending hundreds of billions of dollars, impacting care for tens of millions of seniors, and there is no judicial, administrative, or, realistically, congressional intervention. This challenges the very principles of representative democracy and consent of the governed.
- The IPAB will become the rationing board for Medicare.

*The IPAB stands for everything that is wrong with ObamaCare in taking power away from doctors and patients and putting it in the hands of unelected technocrats in Washington.*

## IPAB: The Rationing Board

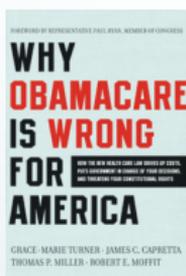
- Under current law, Medicare is on track to pay doctors less than a third of what private health insurers pay. The IPAB could make even deeper cuts to keep spending within ObamaCare's fixed budget, and President Obama has called for the board to cut Medicare further to help with deficit reduction.

### IPAB opposition runs deep

Repeal legislation sponsored by Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) passed the House of Representatives in April 2012 by a vote of 223-181, with seven Democrats voting to support the measure. The Senate has not yet scheduled an IPAB repeal vote.

### Who will decide?

The IPAB is at the center of the conflict between two world views. Do we entrust doctors and patients with decisions? Or do we entrust those decisions to a government-appointed panel of experts in Washington who will have authority over hundreds of billions of dollars in Medicare spending?



For more information about the impact of ObamaCare, order *Why ObamaCare Is Wrong for America* by Grace-Marie Turner, Jim Capretta, Tom Miller, and Bob Moffit (Broadside/HarperCollins, 2011).

[www.WrongForAmericaBook.com](http://www.WrongForAmericaBook.com)



Galen Institute is a not-for-profit public policy research organization devoted to promoting an informed debate over free-market ideas to health care reform. Request additional Galen Guides by emailing [galen@galen.org](mailto:galen@galen.org) and access our research online at [www.galen.org](http://www.galen.org).