

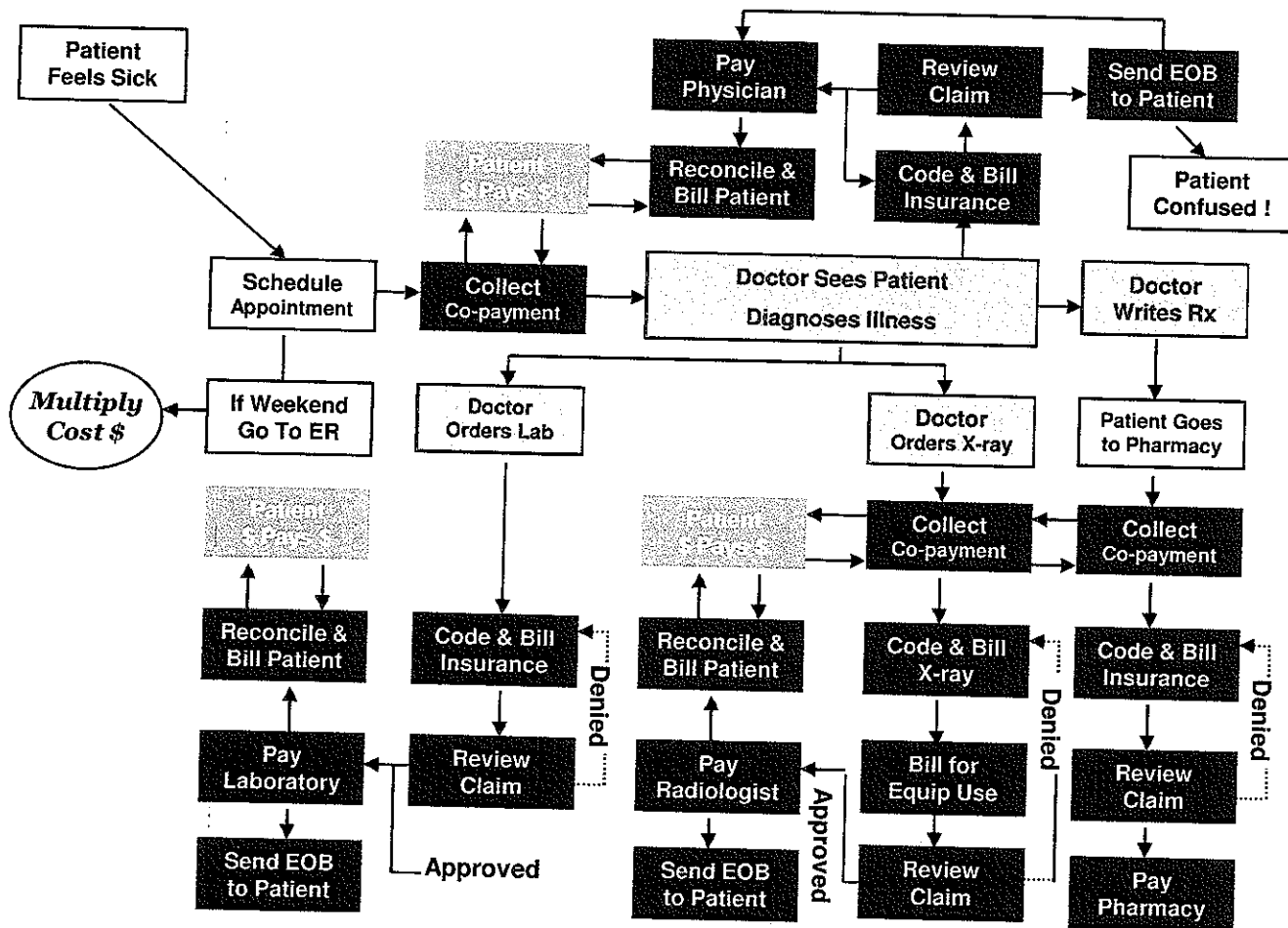
HealthcareforAllColorado

Single-Payer Is

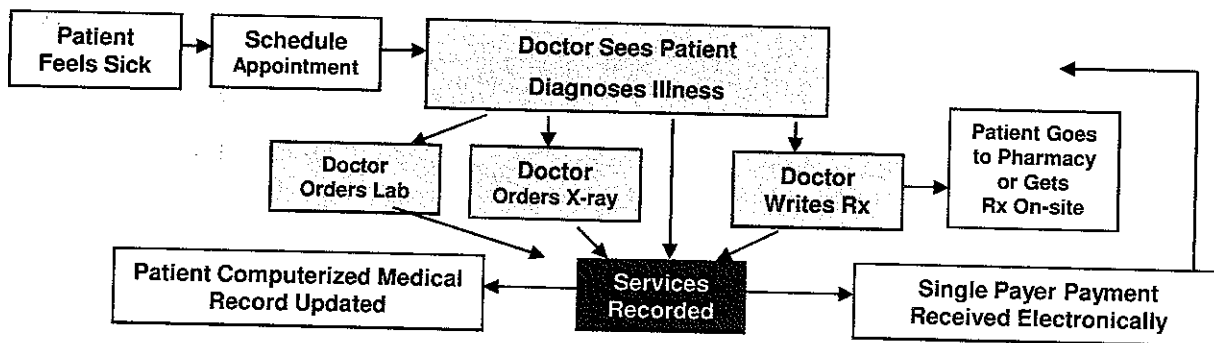
SMART MEDICINE

## Recovering the Waste in Insurance Billing

### Current Overhead for Billing Primary Care ( Billing Tasks in RED )



### Health Care for Colorado Plan ( Billing Task in RED )



For more info: [www.healthcareforallcolorado.org](http://www.healthcareforallcolorado.org) or (303)277-8306

# Northern Colorado BUSINESS REPORT

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## **Why ask why? Now is the time to ask, 'How?'**

By Staff

Highways. Utilities. Health care.

What do these three things have in common? They all serve what the preamble to the U.S. Constitution calls "the general Welfare" of our nation.

We the people recognize the logic of using tax dollars to build and maintain roads and streets and interstate highways. Even if some individuals would rather continue driving back roads, the interstate system moves commerce efficiently and keeps our manufacturing and retail sectors functioning.

We also see the benefits of government participation in the design and construction of the power grid. While individual companies generate the electricity, we all accept the wisdom of regulating standards for delivering that energy to our homes and businesses safely and consistently.

We long ago stopped asking why we should allow the government rather than the private sector to provide these and similar services. The answer is simple: Some things are too important to be managed solely for profit, too vital to our society as a whole to be left completely to individuals to provide.

Which brings us to health care. For too long, our national health insurance discussion has been focused entirely on the "why," as writer T.R. Reid pointed out in Fort Collins last month. Now, as the mid-20th-century model of employer-provided, profit-driven health coverage crumbles around us, we as a nation seem finally ready to move beyond "why" to "how."

How do we ensure that all Americans have access to not only the most advanced medical technology on earth but also basic health maintenance services? How do we remove the benefits handcuffs from employers and workers alike? When small businesses can't afford to hire the people they need and entrepreneurs defer their startup dreams because of the cost of insurance, why ask why? It's time to learn from the rest of the industrialized world how to get our health-care priorities - and incentives - in the right place.

While we usually share the Northern Colorado Legislative Alliance's positions, we prefer not to sit on the sidelines waiting for federal health-care reform.

Although last week's White House health-care summit was encouraging, we also support House Bill 1273, carried by Fort Collins Rep. John Kefalas, which would create an authority to explore creating a publicly funded, privately delivered single-payer coverage system for Colorado. We're usually not much for new study commissions, but anything that advances the discussion of universal coverage is long overdue.