

practitioners the total allowed amounts were \$1.784 billion. Allowed amounts for claims by both physicians and limited license practitioners totaled \$44.153 billion. The 92.6 percent of covered charges for physician services submitted by participating physicians (and limited license practitioners) during 1995 totaled \$40.886 billion.

UNASSIGNED CLAIMS BY NONPARTICIPATING PHYSICIANS

For the calendar year 1995 participation period, 2.8 percent of allowed charges represented unassigned claims, totaling \$1.236 billion. This represents total Medicare billings by physicians who do not accept assignment, and could be assumed to be costs that would be directly shifted to seniors if private contracting is allowed. If one were to assume that physicians would revert to their practices and behavior in 1985 with respect to billings for unassigned claims, it is estimated that charges totaling \$15.233 billion would be shifted to seniors. (2.8% : \$1.236 billion=34.5% : \$15.233 billion).

	1997	1996	1995	1985
Percent of physicians <sup>1</sup> participating	80.2	77.5	72.3	30.4
Percent of physicians <sup>1</sup> not participating	19.8	22.5	27.7	69.6

	1997	1996	1995	1985
Allowed amounts for claims by physicians <sup>1</sup>			\$44.153 <sup>2</sup>	
Percent of allowed charges for physician services billed by participating physicians <sup>1</sup>	n/a	94.3	92.6	36.0
Percent of unassigned claims by nonparticipating physicians <sup>1</sup>	n/a	2.0	2.8	34.5
Total amount billed by nonparticipating physicians <sup>1</sup> on a non-assignment basis			\$1.236 <sup>3</sup>	
Estimated annual charges that would be shifted to seniors			\$15.233 <sup>4</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> Including limited licensed practitioners.  
<sup>2</sup> In 1995 a total of \$55.217 billion in claims were allowed for all providers. This total included \$42.369 billion for physicians and \$1.784 for limited license practitioners, or \$44.153 billion.  
<sup>3</sup> This figure represents the 2.8 percent of allowed charges by physicians and limited license practitioners that represented unassigned claims in 1995, multiplied by the \$44.153 billion in allowed amounts for claims by both physicians and limited license practitioners.  
<sup>4</sup> Assumes that physicians would revert to practices and behavior in 1985 with respect to billings for unassigned claims—that the total amount of unassigned claims from nonparticipating physicians would increase from 2.8 percent to 34.5 percent. That factor (2.8 percent : 34.5 percent) is multiplied by the dollar value of allowed unassigned claims by nonparticipating physicians and limited license practitioners in 1995.

IMPACT OF KYL/ARCHER IN DOLLARS AND CENTS

PREPARED FROM DATA PROVIDED BY THE HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION

The Kyl/Archer bill allows doctors to require private contracts for Medicare-covered

benefits, service by service and patient by patient, effectively removing Medicare's cost protections. Doctors would be able to charge more, while seniors would be left with outrageous bills to pay totally out of pocket.

Here's what the Kyl/Archer bill means in dollars and cents.

Today, under Medicare's rules, doctors can charge between \$2,514 and \$2,747 for heart bypass surgery. The beneficiary pays between \$503 and \$736, and Medicare picks up the rest. For many seniors, that's already at lot of money.

Under the Kyl/Archer so called "freedom of choice," a doctor can charge more than \$2,747 for a by-pass, but it's the Medicare patient who picks up the full tab.

Can seniors afford this? Almost 75% of Medicare beneficiaries have incomes less than \$25,000, so extra bills can be a disaster. By contrast, the average MEDIAN NET income is \$160,740.

Today, doctors can charge \$711 for prostate surgery, \$903 for cataract removal, \$77 for an office visit, \$32 for an electrocardiogram; and \$30 for a chest x-ray. All these services are covered by Medicare.

Under Kyl/Archer there are no limits to what doctors can charge, and seniors will pay every penny even after paying into Medicare through their lives.

Procedure and Total Charge	Under Medicare		If Doctor Requires Private Contract Patient Pays
	Medicare fee schedule	Maximum Doctor can charge	
Cataract Removal, Total Charge	\$827	\$903	
Medicare Pays	\$662	\$662	Medicare Pays Nothing
Beneficiary Pays	\$165	\$241	Patients Pays Total Charge—At Least \$903
By-Pass Surgery, Total Charge	\$2,514	\$2,747	
Medicare Pays	\$2,011	\$2,011	Medicare Pays Nothing
Beneficiary Pays	\$503	\$736	Patients Pays Total Charge—At Least \$2,747
Prostate Surgery, Total Charge	\$625	\$711	
Medicare Pays	\$522	\$522	Medicare Pays Nothing
Beneficiary Pays	\$130	\$189	Patients Pays Total Charge—At Least \$711
Office Visit, New Patient, Total Charge	\$70	\$77	
Medicare Pays	\$46	\$46	Medicare Pays Nothing
Beneficiary Pays	\$14	\$21	Patients Pays Total Charge—At Least \$77
Office Visit, Established Patient, Total Charge	\$40	\$43	
Medicare Pays	\$32	\$32	Medicare Pays Nothing
Beneficiary Pays	\$8	\$11	Patients Pays Total Charge—At Least \$43
Electrocardiogram, (EKG), Total Charge	\$29	\$32	
Medicare Pays	\$23	\$23	Medicare Pays Nothing
Beneficiary Pays	\$6	\$9	Patients Pays Total Charge—At Least \$32
Chest X-Ray, Total Charge	\$28	\$30	
Medicare Pays	\$22	\$22	Medicare Pays Nothing
Beneficiary Pays	\$6	\$8	Patients Pays Total Charge—At Least \$30

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH  
75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the St. Martin of Tours Parish. The Parish has proven itself a great asset to the Catholic community, as well as to the surrounding Philadelphia area. St. Martin's prides itself in their dedication to their Roman Catholic heritage as suggested in their Diamond Jubilee motto: "Many People—One Family—Serving Christ."

St. Martin's first Mass was celebrated on June 17, 1923, in a two-story house with a mere 80 people in attendance. While the original two-story house still stands in Oxford Circle, the Parish has since grown in size to encompass two-and-one-half miles of Northeast Philadelphia. There are now two churches (upper and lower), two schools, a convent and a rectory that all stand on 4.3 acres. The lower church cost \$600,000 to build and was

first put to use in 1948 where the first Mass was celebrated. The upper church, which was completed in 1954, took six years to complete at a cost of \$2 million. Its interior volume of some 500,000 cubic feet of space has a clear height of 50 feet from the floor to the ceiling. Nearly 400 tons of marble, having 21 varieties, were used in constructing the interior finish of the upper church. It was, at that time, the second largest shipment of marble received in the Port of Philadelphia.

The St. Martin of Tours School also started out as a small one-story building. The first school session began in September of 1925. Forty-three girls and twenty-eight boys were taught by three Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A second school was needed shortly thereafter, and was completed in 1958. Today, the school consists of two three-story buildings, holding 1,500 students. The largest student enrollment occurred in 1963 with a total of 2,465 students.

The Parish membership has also risen to 5,573 families, or 16,663 parishioners, the largest enrollment in the City of Philadelphia. St. Martin's reached the height of its membership in 1963 when it had an estimated 10,000

attendees at 10 Sunday Masses. Today, six priests celebrate seven masses on Sunday. The parish has had only six pastoral leaders in its 75 years of existence, including Rev. Patrick Houston, Rev. John McHugh, Msgr. Walter Bowe, Msgr. Michael Marley, Rev. Leonard Furmanski and Rev. Thomas Murray, the current pastor. All of St. Martin's teachers, employees, volunteers, parishioners, and students make great efforts through prayers, talents, and dedication to strive to meet the challenges and the ever-changing needs of our diverse society. St. Martin's is a central presence to the Philadelphia area as it remains committed to living the daily example of "Many People—One Family—Serving Christ."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding those associated with the St. Martin of Tours Parish. I pay tribute to this wonderful 75th anniversary celebration of Roman Catholic heritage, which has brought much pride to the Philadelphia community. I wish St. Martin's Parish great success in the coming years.