

Review of: "Assessing the financial impact of physician self-referral on patients and how they cope with payment in Southeast Nigeria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Self-referral by physicians is potentially bad because there is always the temptation to put the physician's financial benefit above what is best for the patient. This has been well-documented in affluent countries, and has led to bans on self-referral in the United States (the Stark Law).

This paper brought home the fact that in less-affluent countries similar temptations exist.

The paper notes that estimated costs were perceived by the interviewees. It would strengthen the paper if a sampling of these could be verified objectively.