

Medicare for All solves surprise billing: Talk radio call-in sample scripts

*Radio call-in shows reach a **large and loyal audience**, especially locally, and represent a great opportunity to advocate for single-payer reform. Consider calling in during a general news discussion segment, or during a segment dedicated to health care. **Keep your initial comment short** (the host may cut you off) but be prepared to engage further if given the opportunity.*



General message

Hi, I want to ask about these surprise medical bills that people are getting, and that Congress can't seem to do anything about. What is the point of health insurance if surgeons, and anesthesiologists, and diagnostic labs can send you a bill for thousands of dollars? That's why I think we need Medicare for All, to make sure every doctor is in network, and to make sure patients don't have to worry about surprise medical bills.

Message as a physician

Hi, I'm Doctor [NAME] and I wanted to let your listeners know what people in the medical profession think about surprise medical bills. We don't like them. We don't like that patients avoid seeing us, avoid the tests we order, and avoid the procedures they need because they're afraid of getting a bill. It's frustrating for us, and it's dangerous for them. That's why we need Medicare for All, to make sure every doctor is in network, and to make sure patients don't have to worry about surprise bills.

Additional discussion points

- For medical emergencies, patients are transported to the nearest hospital, regardless of whether or not it's in-network.
- Provider networks get smaller with each passing year, and information on insurance company websites is often out of date.
- Even patients who try to stay in-network can be hit with surprise bills if just one of their providers happens to be out-of-network.
- Our current health care system is so confusing that most patients struggle to understand it, especially when they're sick.
- Corporations are invested in the status quo, from physician staffing groups to health insurers to large hospital chains.
- The public option wouldn't help with surprise bills, because most patients would still have network restrictions.
- Surprise medical bills can run hundreds or thousands of dollars, and often arrive at the worst possible time. This can drive families to bankruptcy.
- Even patients on Medicare, especially Medicare Advantage, can be hit with surprise bills because of loopholes. Medicare for All would close those loopholes.