

[January 5, 2026](#) › [Big Pharma](#) › [Toxic Exposures](#) › [News](#)[Add To Reading List](#) **POLICY**

Doctors Will No Longer Receive Financial Rewards for Vaccinating Kids

In a Dec. 30, 2025, memo to state health officials, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said it “does not tie payment to performance on immunization quality measures in Medicaid and CHIP at the federal level.” U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said the new policy protects medical freedom and informed consent.

by **Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D.**

JANUARY 5, 2026



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The federal government will **stop paying physicians** based on the number of patients they vaccinate, and is urging state health agencies to stop using similar financial incentives.

In a Dec. 30, 2025, memo to state health officials, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) said it “does not tie payment to performance on immunization quality measures in Medicaid and CHIP [Childhood Health Insurance Program] at the federal level.”

Under the new policies, CMS will no longer require states to report how many children are vaccinated, but states may continue to voluntarily provide the data.

CMS stated it will explore options to more strongly encourage **informed consent** before vaccination and “will also explore how religious exemptions for vaccinations can be accounted for in the data and the subsequent measures.”

U.S. Health Secretary **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** welcomed the new **policy** in a post on X, stating that it protects medical freedom and informed consent.

Secretary Kennedy  
@SecKennedy · [Follow](#)



Thank you, [@robbystarbuck](#), for bringing attention to this update.

Government bureaucracies should never coerce doctors or families into accepting vaccines or penalize physicians for respecting patient choice. That practice ends now.

Under the Trump administration, HHS will [Show more](#)

Robby Starbuck  [@robbystarbuck](#)

Big change announcement for 2026: Doctors will no longer be financially punished if patients decline vaccines, including for religious reasons.

@SecKennedy + @CMSGov's new directive says Medicaid & CHIP payments will no longer be tied to prenatal and childhood vaccine numbers.

2:57 PM · Dec 31, 2025



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"This directional change coming from CMS is welcome," said Mary Holland, CEO of **Children's Health Defense**. "It helps to put **vaccines** back into the category of every other medical intervention, which is where they should be."

Writing on Substack, research scientist and author James Lyons-Weiler, Ph.D., called CMS's new policy "the most consequential federal policy reversal on **pediatric vaccine incentives**" in recent years and "the beginning of a long-overdue

rebalancing.”

Pediatrician **Dr. Michelle Perro** said the new policy restores ethics and trust in the practice of vaccinating children.

“Any time a clinician’s compensation is tied to a specific medical decision, especially one involving children, families reasonably ask, ‘Is this recommendation for my child, or for a metric?’ Even the appearance of a conflict can erode trust, and trust is the foundation of pediatric care and informed consent,” Perro said.

‘Financial incentives distort medical judgment’

Writing for the Gold Report, journalist Yudi Sherman of America’s Frontline News said the **system of financial incentives** tied to physicians’ vaccination rates “has long been controversial” and has adversely affected pediatric practice.

“Parents have complained for years that financial incentives distort medical judgment, leading to high-pressure tactics around childhood vaccinations. Some say doctors push shots parents believe are unnecessary or unsafe. Others report being dismissed from pediatric practices altogether if they decline vaccines,” Sherman wrote.

According to Sherman, the system of financial incentives for vaccinating children “could be surprisingly lucrative.” She cited CMS data showing that the agency paid physicians about \$45 for each dose of the **COVID-19** vaccine administered to a child through Medicare.

“Administer the shot at home, and that came with another \$40. All told, a doctor could earn around \$85 for a single COVID-19 shot, with the shot itself supplied at no cost by the federal government,” Sherman wrote.

“Roughly half of doctors” are beneficiaries of these incentives, “known as value-based contracts.” “They reward physicians with lump-sum payments for hitting specific metrics, such as vaccination rates. Because those rates are calculated as percentages, doctors who want to keep their numbers high sometimes avoid seeing unvaccinated children altogether.”

Pressure on physicians to accept such financial incentives is strong, according to a 2021 paper co-authored by Lyons-Weiler and Dr. Paul Thomas, published in the **International Journal of Vaccine Theory, Practice, and Research**.

According to Lyons-Weiler, that paper, based on a **30-day billing analysis** at a large pediatric practice in Oregon, “where informed consent is genuinely respected,” showed that “refusal of CDC-scheduled vaccines by patients resulted in projected annual losses exceeding one million dollars in one practice — primarily from forgone administrative fees.”

“This was not hypothetical. It was a documented, measurable penalty for practicing medicine with integrity,” Lyons-Weiler wrote.

According to **Dr. Meryl Nass**, founder of **Door to Freedom** and a former internist, pediatricians often rely on these financial incentives to supplement their income, even though these incentives damage the doctor-patient relationship by prioritizing the needs of insurance companies and the government.

“I have been told that pediatricians rely on vaccine payments and bonuses to stay in the black,” Nass said. “Pediatricians are supposed to be the lowest paid of all doctors. This will eventually have a huge impact on the practice of pediatrics.”

Retired pediatrician **Dr. Samara Cardenas** said pediatricians receive financial incentives not just from federal and state government sources, but also from insurers. According to Cardenas, the incentives are designed to increase childhood **vaccination** rates.

“It has been since the late 90s, when HMOs were founded. They started doing that because they really wanted to get the patients vaccinated ... so there was always a monetary incentive for doctors to do it because they get paid so little,” Cardenas said.

According to figures from Georgetown University's **Center for Children and Families**, approximately 40% of U.S. children are covered by Medicaid. Cardenas said doctors who treat **Medicaid patients** “get paid a good amount for doing vaccinations” — approximately “25 cents on a dollar.”

"It doesn't look like a lot, but when you have 2,000 patients and you do all your vaccinations, you get a good amount of money," Cardenas said.

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Cash incentives to vaccinate kids contributed to chronic disease epidemic

Tying payment to vaccination rates can harm pediatrics in several predictable ways, Perro said.

It can distort the clinical conversation by bypassing shared decision-making between physicians, patients and their families. It erodes trust in pediatric guidance more broadly. And it creates an administrative burden for pediatric practices that have to complete the paperwork required to receive reimbursements.

Perro added that pediatricians who opt out of these incentives face a "competitive disadvantage" compared to pediatricians who accept such incentives.

Holland said the incentives have contributed to the growing **childhood chronic disease epidemic** in the U.S.

"These perverse financial incentives to vaccinate children have warped the practice of medicine, putting bonus payments for meeting arbitrary thresholds over an individual child's health," Holland said. "We have seen the damage with an **exceptional rate of childhood chronic disease.**"

States would still be allowed to provide their own financial incentives to doctors. Internal medicine physician **Dr. Clayton Baker** said it is likely that "states with predominantly **Democrat state politics** and deeply **Pharma-captured** medical establishments" will ignore CMS by continuing to incentivize pediatricians.

However, "this change by CMS may ... provide medical freedom-minded states greater impetus to stop this practice altogether within their jurisdiction," Baker said.

Cardenas said pediatricians have a responsibility to provide quality care despite the elimination of federal financial incentives for vaccinating children.

"The good doctors will do a good job regardless of money," Cardenas said.

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Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D.

Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D., based in Athens, Greece, is a senior reporter for The Defender and host of "The Defender In-Depth" on CHD.TV.

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3

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A

AMV

20 hours ago

So they've finally admitted that drs received financial incentives to coerce their patients family's into jabbed their kids. What an admission. I knew it for a while but most drs were afraid to admit it! it's appalling that this was allowed and even encouraged. Sickening really.

17

0

Reply



BChristine

→ AMV

20 hours ago

YES, the fact this was EVER taking place is criminal!

5

0

Reply



A

AMV

→ BChristine

19 hours ago

Absolutely criminal. I believe there's lots of guilty parties around to prosecute.

5

0

Reply



N

notaluvvie

→ AMV

19 hours ago

Akin "To saying there is lots of guilty parties".

1

0

Reply



C

CZ

→ notaluvvie

16 hours ago

Your quotation mark skills suck to be correcting someone else, lol. Do you ever hear people in real life saying "there're"? No, because it is a ridiculous tongue twister. Sorry to inform you but language is made up as we go along.

1

0

Reply



D

Deborah Howard → AMV

16 hours ago

Well over a million a year, provide shipping and refrigeration; state paid and private insurance paid have separate registration. Why do you think that the doctors push it. BIG PHARMA has guven physicians money for years to push meds. When that started being watched more, non-monetary gifts occured.

2 0 Reply ↗

N

notaluvvie → AMV

19 hours ago

What belongs to all the patient's singular family?

0 0 Reply ↗

C

CZ → notaluvvie

16 hours ago

It's "patients'," you pedant.

0 0 Reply ↗

A

AMV → notaluvvie

17 hours ago

Not sure what your asking!

0 0 Reply ↗

L

Lisa Penosky

19 hours ago

Now, big Pharmacy needs to be blocked from giving docs incentive payments for vaccines and all their other products!

8 0 Reply ↗

**Jill Herendeen** → Lisa Penosky

19 hours ago

Maybe docs should get paid enough to BE docs to live comfortably on-- regardless of how many patients they have-and to use their best clinical judgment.

1 0 Reply ↗

D

Deborah Howard → Jill Herendeen

—

16 hours ago

They get paid extremely well

0

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Reply

**CAWS** → Deborah Howard

—

4 hours ago

Not unless they are specialists/surgeons. Insurance downgrades all their charges and most of them ;especially GPs and general dentists have \$500K in student loans . This is why it now takes 3 months to get an appointment and you get 5 minutes of their time if you are lucky. Nobody can afford medical school in USA and it will take a lifetime to pay off the debt. In other countries [say Costa Rica] university is free as long as your grades are good and they have more doctors per capita so the care is prompt,good quality and cheaper. Also other EU countries give their doctors bonuses if their patients stay healthy [cutting costs on expensive tests & surgeries/medications].

0

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Reply

T

trmlogan

—

20 hours ago

This is tremendously welcomed, but as long as states and/or insurers incentivize doctors, which they will, it may only affect those doctors being paid by Medicaid/Medicare. Hopefully, conservative states will follow suit.

8

0

Reply

D

Deborah Howard → trmlogan

—

16 hours ago

Almost all doctors giving vaccines receive government funding.

1

0

Reply

J

jann

—

19 hours ago

Many thanks to Dr. Thomas for exposing the incentives and Dr. Oz for this change. This HHS team is brilliant and are beating pharma at their own game. I can imagine all the

...the team is brilliant and are beating pharma at their own game. I can imagine all the emergency meetings at pharma today.

7 0 Reply



CAWS → jann

4 hours ago

Dr OZ used to recommend vaccines on his TV show [media paid for by Pharma] but then admitted that his kids were not vaccinated because his wife would not let him. Thanks Mrs Oz!

2 0 Reply

D

Deborah Howard → jann

16 hours ago

It's not new news; just published.

0 0 Reply

D

digo

18 hours ago

God Bless Bobby, God protect Bobby, Thank God for Bobby.

5 0 Reply



Duties

18 hours ago

Doctors were also paid an increasingly larger bounty, the higher percentage of their patients who were administered the clot shot. No conflict of interest there!

5 0 Reply

D

Deborah Howard → Duties

16 hours ago

As well as to write covid diagnosis and covid death in death certificates.

1 0 Reply



Duties → Deborah Howard

15 hours ago

100%. The clot shot was the greatest crime committed against humanity in history.

3 0 Reply **Robin Bell**

19 hours ago

This is great news! But I think there will be pushback from all the "doctors" who pushed vaccines for money.

5 0 Reply 

N

notaluvvie → Robin Bell

19 hours ago

Not to forget the experimental death drugs.

2 0 Reply 

H

holisticpoet

20 hours ago

This article has no mention of the payments that big pharma might make to a pediatric practice. If they are allowed to pay incentives to doctors then we have done little to prevent one of the main problems with our healthcare system. We need to be extremely vigilant because these people are not going to give up their cash cow easily or willingly.

8 1 Reply 

D

Deborah Howard → holisticpoet

16 hours ago

It is extremely nice to pediatricians

0 0 Reply **Clare Goldsberry**

4 hours ago

That's why many pediatricians "fire" their patients when the parents refuse hyper-vaccination for their little children. If they can't profit from these shots, they don't want to see the patient. That's because doctors no longer care about "HEALTH" but about "ILLNESS" -- there's no profits in "HEALTH" -- only in illness and selling treatments. Jab a child 24 times in the first 2 years of its life and they have a patient for life with myriad adverse events! Shame on them!

3 0 Reply 

**Ektor**

7 hours ago

Big pharma will now pay the bonuses directly. Overall, over the last 70 years, the health of the country has not improved. Modern medicine has been an abject failure for the most part. The idea of combating illness and diseases with toxic vaccines and poison drugs is beyond psychopathic, deadly and torturous. It is toxins and poisons that create disease and illness. Not viruses and bad germs.

3 0 Reply

R**RandyFaster**

18 hours ago

People need to start looking at what "they" don't want you to see...rather than the distractions. They want to keep you in a constant state of fear. These headlines are getting way too predictable! -- They've already murdered millions of chickens and hundreds of ostriches; and I'm sure, many more farm animals. What will they do next? How many Americans are even aware of the insane Weather Warfare that's been ongoing in the states? How insane does the weather have to get before people WAKE UP and realize that none of this is "nature acting badly"! Time is getting shorter!

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/en/news/science/explainers/steer-clear-of-a-snownado-if-you-see-one-on-a-cold-sunny-day>

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/news/bird-flu-2026-analysis>

3 0 Reply

D**Deborah Howard** → RandyFaster

16 hours ago

Weather altering began in the 40's. They are killing the protein that the physical body needs to function and survive. The covid vaccine alters protein and DNA. I am so glad someone else knows what is going on.

2 0 Reply

M**Marie blaszak** → Deborah Howard

15 hours ago

The graphene from the trails in the sky and the aluminum turns our body into like an Antenna. We are breathing this stuff in and are becoming a Receiver so they can beam harmful Frequencies at our brain from

5G. Shilijit/humus will remove it. Tastes like cow dung, but not bad in coffee or tea. Sticky and black goo. I got mine from

tic toc for \$8. Maybe look on eBay or Amazon.

2 0 Reply 

D

Deborah Howard → Marie blaszak

15 hours ago

The covid shots will help with that 5G and illumination.

1 0 Reply 

P

Peaceful Prevailer

2 hours ago

Finally! Thank you! This kind of thing needs to extend to all substances.

2 0 Reply 

R

RandyFaster

18 hours ago

"Don't count your chickens before they hatch"...Have you ever heard that one? The WHO, WEF and UN are still working non-stop on their respective agendas and 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals) is getting really, really close now! I don't even have time to list all the things that are wrong with this civilization; but I can tell you that there is more than one existential threat. Geoengineering of our skies, Digital I.D.'s and Digital Currency (total surveillance state), A.I., the massive data centers that are all being built in record time, the race for A.I. supremacy...and as always; it's all for "the love of money", power and control. Everything else is a distraction! There is something to be said for "Thinking outside the box"! Has anyone else noticed the increasing number of people wearing the harmful and idiotic "covid mask"? I'm still seeing parents with a "small" child, with his/her face covered with that disgusting symbol of control...makes me almost want to smack the stupid out of them!!!

2 0 Reply 

D

Deborah Howard → RandyFaster

16 hours ago

Just went to a meeting tonight about those data centers and how our electricity will be affected and more rolling blackouts and higher electricity prices.

2 0 Reply 

D

RandyFaster

→ Deborah Howard



15 hours ago

Just one of those data centers, uses as much electricity as an entire city! Many of them are now building their own power grid. As always...they will require more and more!

2

0

Reply



Sarah

→ RandyFaster



17 hours ago

They're teaching the world to feel just like you, and no marvel, they have a solution already. There's a new, "good" system already planned, but it has to look organic.. the people have to demand the change.

0

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Reply



Mad Hatter



18 hours ago

People need to realize their "doctor" isn't a vaccine expert at all. They don't create or immerse themselves in the science period. They are basically a p-harmacist who pushes products that mainstream medicine and governments wants used. We know about the harm, you boss your doctor, the doctor doesn't boss you.

2

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Reply



melinda gladstone



9 hours ago

"Administer the shot at home, and that came with another \$40. All told, a doctor could earn around \$85 for a single COVID-19 shot, with the shot itself supplied at no cost by the federal government," Sherman wrote. Pediatricians often rely on these financial incentives to supplement their income, even though these incentives damage the doctor-patient relationship by prioritizing the needs of insurance companies and the government.

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"It doesn't look like a lot, but when you have 2,000 patients and you do all your vaccinations, you get a good amount of money," Cardenas said.

NO ONE should receive financial bonus compensation for vaccinations for any age.

Pay attention to what party is in charge when the financial incentives continue to compensate doctors for shots.

It was NEVER about health.....

FOLLOW THE MONEY!!!

1 0 Reply 

Z

Zoe

16 hours ago

Under the updated schedule, vaccines protecting against what HHS called the “most serious childhood diseases” will remain recommended for all children. These include vaccines for measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), polio, pertussis, tetanus, diphtheria, Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib), pneumococcal disease, human papillomavirus (HPV) and varicella (chickenpox).

Are these paid for? Does 'recommended' = mandatory? Where is 'informed consent'?

1 0 Reply 

D

Deborah Howard → Zoe

16 hours ago

The new MMR is very similar to the covid shot. Avoid it too! You can't get a tetanus shot now; that give Tdap instead. Avoid it too.

2 0 Reply 

D

david peterson

17 hours ago

That is great news! Thank you RFK Jr! and all your supporters. You are an inspiration to everyone who cares about health freedom.

1 0 Reply 



Cypher

18 hours ago

I wonder how the mainstream media will spin this one?

1 0 Reply 