



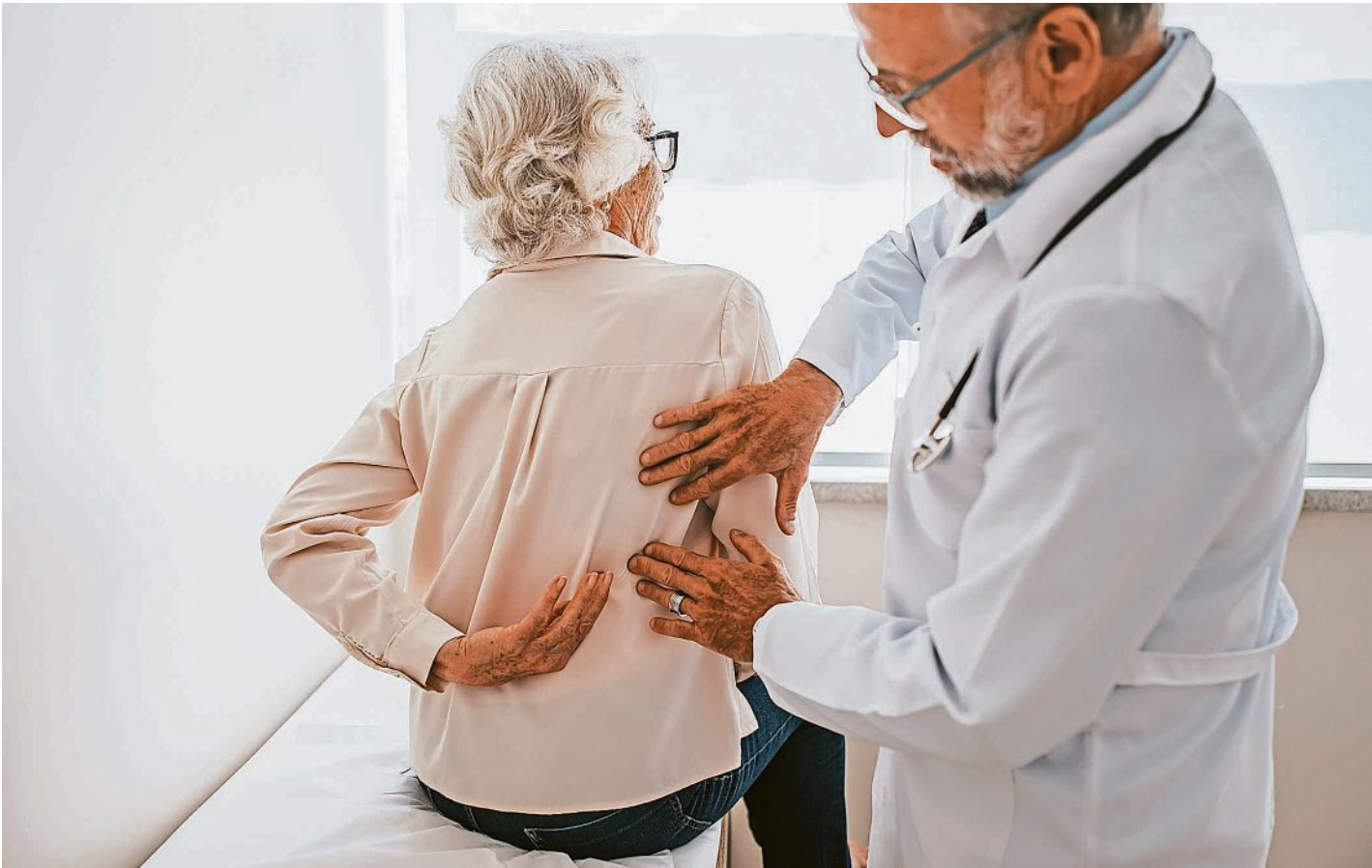
NFL's top 25 QBs of the 21st century

SPORTS, 1B

The Times

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Physicians who authored a New England Journal of Medicine article found that the WISeR program could cause “considerable suffering for patients,” citing as an example a person with excruciating pain caused by spinal stenosis who is denied access to lumbar decompression. PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

AI to review Medicare claims in pilot program

Profit incentive raises concerns over restrictions of care

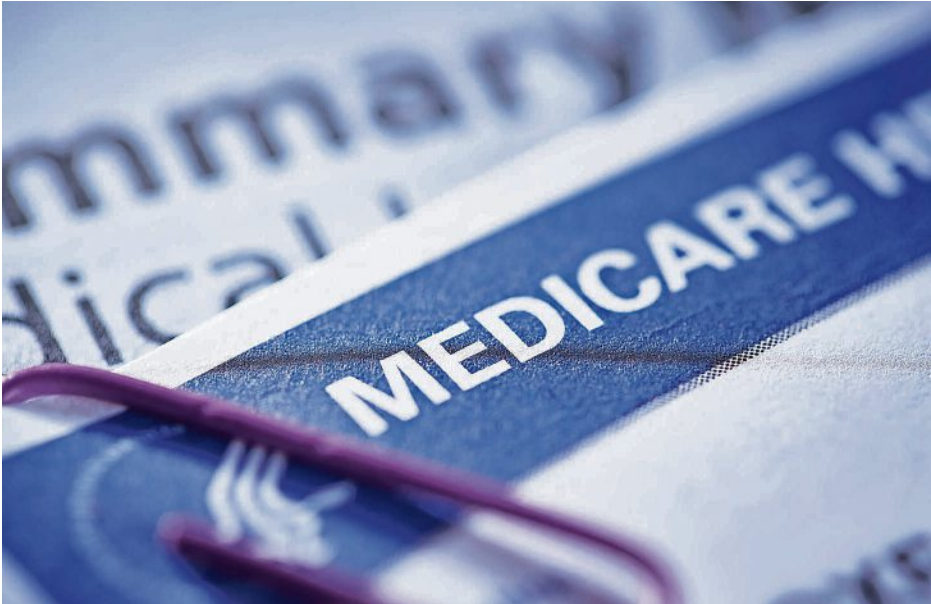
Stephanie Innes
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

A new Medicare program that uses artificial intelligence to review medical claims is set to launch in six states. Critics worry it will lead to patients being denied necessary care and more red tape for providers.

The controversial new six-year pilot program, set to begin Jan. 1, is a model that makes use of “leveraging enhanced technologies” operated by private, for-profit companies to authorize – and possibly deny – certain medical care for people enrolled in traditional Medicare, often also known as original Medicare. The enhanced technologies include AI.

Some providers and a group of Democrats in Congress have tried to put a stop to the federal pilot program, which is called WISeR (Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction), but their efforts have not been successful.

Sen. Mark Kelly, a Democrat from Arizona, criticized WISeR on the social media platform X, characterizing it as a way for AI companies to profit off of denying care to seniors.



The Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction, or WISeR, will use “enhanced technologies” operated by private, for-profit companies to authorize – and possibly deny – certain medical care for people enrolled in traditional Medicare.

Officials with the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services say the program is designed to protect taxpayers. They say it will cut down on wasteful spending in Medicare, which is primarily for ages 65 and over, as well as some who are younger with certain disabilities and those with end-stage renal failure. The six states in the pilot program

are Arizona, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington.

CMS administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz, who has made “crushing” Medicare fraud a priority, has said that the model will help bring Medicare into the 21st century by testing a “streamlined prior

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Note to readers

We will not be printing a paper on Thursday, Jan. 1, but will be providing it to you via the eNewspaper. You can always find the latest news on our website, mobile app, newsletters and social media. Subscribers can access the eNewspaper by going to our website and clicking on eNewspaper in the black navigation bar.

Activities near Beaver on New Year's Eve

Beth Ann Miller
Beaver County Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

As the holiday season draws to a close, there are still some unique activities that Beaver County families can do to say goodbye to 2025 and hello to 2026. The Times has compiled this list of family-friendly events on and around Dec. 31 in the

See ACTIVITIES, Page 2A

Rates are down, and the market's heating up

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