

## **Medicare to Open Files on Doctors**

Reversing a policy that has kept medical errors secret for more than two decades, federal officials say they will soon allow Medicare beneficiaries to obtain data about doctors who botched their care.

. Tens of thousands of Medicare patients file complaints each year about the quality of care they receive from doctors and hospitals. But in many cases, patients get no information because doctors can block the release of assessments of their performance. .

Under a new policy doctors will no longer be able to veto disclosure of the findings of investigations. Investigators will also have to tell patients whether their care met "professionally recognized standards of health care" and inform them of any action against the doctor or the hospital.