Teleradiology: A Case Study Of The Economic And Legal Considerations In International Trade In Telemedicine

Purpose

This paper examines the growing market for telemedical services—teleradiology in particular—and seeks to identify areas where regulatory gaps are likely to create unintended consequences. Attention is focused on medical malpractice litigation and insurance coverage costs, because one of the models for teleradiology delivery (the Indian model) attempts to change the nature of radiology services to avoid medical malpractice liability. The Indian model’s dramatically lower costs make it attractive to U.S. hospitals that might be struggling to make a profit. These hospitals might not anticipate that using the Indian model will shift medical malpractice premium costs normally borne by individual radiologists to the domestic institution that is contracting for teleradiology services. In short, this analysis highlights issues that should be considered in regulating medicine in a global environment, a context where state laws concerned with licensing physicians need to be harmonized with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules on free trade in services.

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Link to Tool:

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