

HMOs

(Continued from page 1)

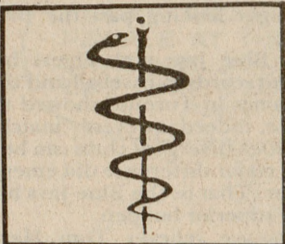
For those who regularly need medical attention, however, an HMO usually can offer better advantages than an independent physician, he said.

"Certainly," he said, "if you have a lot of medical bills, a lot of sick kids, you're having to go to the doctor every month, you've got a pre-existing medical condition, then

maybe an HMO is worth it, especially if the type of care you need is provided by the local providers in the HMO.

"I realize that to a lot of people on a marginal income, that's really important, and I wouldn't fault them a bit."

Almost all routine medical care is covered by HMOs, Gay said, including eye and hearing exams, outpatient surgery, intermittent



home health care, post-natal care and drug-abuse treatment.

Instead of the patients' paying for separate office visits for each medical need, every service is included and available in the HMO, Gay said.

Regardless of HMO benefits, though, Doss said some of the personal interaction with a family physician may be lost if a patient goes to an HMO.

"Most of these (independent) docs have a fairly independent spirit," he said. "They had confidence

in themselves, they were able to go to a community and set up their practice by themselves — they've made it by themselves.

"They are not employees of a large group where they're working nine to five.

"Their interests are the patients' interests, and if they don't come across that way to their patients, they know without any doubt in their mind that that patient has a

right to, and will, without any question, go to another physician."

But Gay said HMO clients can shop around for a physician the like. They are not restricted to the doctor they first choose and may go to another at any time, he said.

"HMOs don't practice the 'market' approach to medicine," Gay said. "We encourage each family member to choose his own personal physician."

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Dillard's

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Sharp

Pool shark and Tuesday from The Tonight

A&I

By Me

The Texas A&M department is looking to computerize campus information, but budget cuts have delayed the plan. The plan, already approved by the Texas A&M Board of Regents, would implement the u

Vote to vote

By Carol Rep

Texas A&M students in Brazos County voted on Monday to register for the general election. The 25 state amendments and the constitutional amendment to legalize par Texas. Brazos County voters for the Nov. 3 election will be asked to vote on the March 8 presidential primary. Voters failing to vote, however, can vote in the March primary.

To register, a voter must be a U.S. citizen. Anyone who is ineligible for the November general election is ineligible for the largest num

Study

WASHINGTON - Financial records of congressmen have shown baby-sitting fees, phone and meals. The congressmen's funds as out of the budget bureau spending more than half of this year. Among other things, Rep. Marvin Goodson bought a \$16,818 two-year-old luxury car in Washington, D.C. for \$2,500 in cash. He also bought a phone, insurance. Although he u