Some Insurers Erect Roadblocks

**By Paula Span**

Slowly but steadily, Marlene Nathanson was recovering. She had suffered a stroke in November 2022 at her home in Minneapolis and spend a week in a hospital; afterwards, when she arrived at Episcopal Homes in St. Paul for rehabilitation, she couldn’t walk. Weakness in her right arm an hand left her unable to feed herself, and her speech remained somewhat garbled.

But over three weeks of physical occupational and speech therapy, “she was making good progress,” said her husband, Iric Nathanson. “Her therapists were very encouraging.” Ms Nathanson, then 85, had bugun to get around using a walker. Her arm was growing stronger and her speech had nearly returned to norml.

Then, on a Wednesday afternoon, one of her therapists told the Nathanson that their Medicare Advantage plan had refused a request to cover further treatment. “She has to leave our facility by Friday,” the therapist said, apologetically.