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3/8/2023

Z- CH # 16

ON-LINE CONTENT (1H)

Review the You tube video “Why Medical Bills in the US are so expensive” on this website https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NvnOUcG-ZI and place your answers to the following questions in the Z-CH # 16 drop box by 0800 on March 16, 2023.

In order to receive full credit (1H class time) for this assignment, it must be completed in its entirety by the due date/time assigned. Any assignment not completed in its entirety will result in missed class time.

1. What are the most common ways individuals use to raise money for healthcare costs not covered by insurance? What are your thoughts on using social media to raise money for healthcare costs? What are some of the costs not covered by insurance?

Some of the most common ways individuals raise money for healthcare costs include GoFundMe accounts and social media such as Facebook. I personally do not love the idea of raising money through social media. I think it is hard to see if truth is being spread and if the person you are giving money to actually needs it for healthcare reasons. Also, they could use the money to purchase other things and you could have no idea or can do nothing about it. I think with anything it can be used in the right way it just depends on the person. Some costs not covered by insurance include medication and parking at the hospital.

2. Who are all the entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare services provided?

Physicians, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, shareholders, and insurance companies are all entities fighting for monetary payment for healthcare service provided. At the center of all of these is the patient.

3. What are the metrics used to judge hospitals and do you think these are the appropriate metrics, explain your answer?

The metrics used to judge hospitals today are profit return on investment and efficiency. These are not metrics of healthcare, but it is how hospitals are judged today. I feel like these are not the most appropriate. It is important for the hospital to run efficiently and bring in money, however efficiency of the company is not the most important. I think putting patients first and patient/staff safety trumps profit efficiency.

4. Explain what “unbundling” is?

Unbundling is when you have the cost of your medical expense, however there are many extra charges added onto your bill. The video used an example of buying an airplane ticket, but then extra costs such as a checked bag, extra leg room, and a bottled water all are added to your bill as well. The video also mentioned how it has become normal for this to happen in healthcare in the US, but it is not normal in other countries. It is kept track of through a system of codes. Different codes mean different prices.

5. If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?
   I would change the business aspect of healthcare and have it focused more on the health of actual people. For example, with the coding, it used to be for a scientific and medical purpose, but was then translated into a business asset. I think face to face interaction are so important and the video made a great point about so much documentation and being on the computers for coding purposes decreases the time with patients. I think hospitals being run as a corporation changed the cost of things for patients as well. Now there is a price for human health, which in most cases is priceless.