

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?

Fund-raising online is becoming more and more common for individuals and families in need of assistance. I do not have an issue with people turning to this avenue to help raise funds, I only wish that there was a better way. It is more difficult to regulate or monitor the validity of the needs that are shared online. Recently a young woman was in the news after she was discovered as having an online persona which involved a fake cancer diagnosis. People followed her “journey” and she received thousands of dollars through GoFundMe from people who were trying to help. But it was all a sham. These types of incidences can deter people from donating to strangers because it is not secure nor sustainable. Similar to the story we see of the mother of a toddler with chronic illness...this is a systemic problem. Costs not covered by insurance include elective or cosmetic procedures, beauty treatments, or brand-new technologies. Other costs not covered by insurance can include medical supplies or medications patients need to manage chronic disease/conditions. This of course can vary greatly depending on the type of insurance policy held.

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

Entities involved in the fight for monetary payment Physicians, Hospitals, Insurance companies, Pharmaceutical companies, and Shareholders, while patients are in the middle.

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

Core measure, Length of stay, Readmission rates, Hospital consumer assessment of healthcare providers and systems, Mortality rates, Bed utilization rate, Incidents, CMS program performance, Average cost per discharge, Operating margin, Bad debt. I think that some of these are metrics are valuable and hold more merit in establishing quality related to patient care. Other factors such as Bed utilization rate, Costs per discharge, Operating margin, and Bad debt are financial/business profitability focused metrics and I feel like they are not appropriate indicators of appropriate care/treatment for patients.

4. Explain what “unbundling” is?

Unbundling is a billing practice that involves itemizing the various elements involved with a service into separate costs. Medical billing practices (coding systems) have yielded to this because a procedure that were once attached to a set price are now variable depending on different specifications involved. These practices typically leads to higher overall costs for the consumer.

5. If you had the ability to create a health care system from scratch, what would you do differently?

Rebecca Lamons
March 16th, 2023

If I could start from the ground up, I would allow only non-profit hospitals and non-profit insurance companies. The video explained several points in our (U.S.) history which marked a pivoting point towards the current healthcare system. Two of these points include when for-profit medical insurance companies and when for-profit hospitals came into the picture. I would also implement policies to restrict hospital/medical group CEOs salaries to stay within a certain ratio when compared to the salary of their lowest paid worker. For example, if a hospital's lowest paid employee grossed \$30,000 annually, and the ratio was 15-to-1, the CEO's salary cap would be \$450,000. Any medications that were deemed fit by an appropriately licensed prescriber would be covered by insurance regardless of off-label use, and medical supplies related to chronic conditions, such as the ostomy bags mentioned in the video, would also be covered by insurance.